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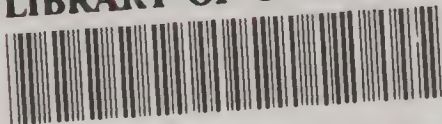
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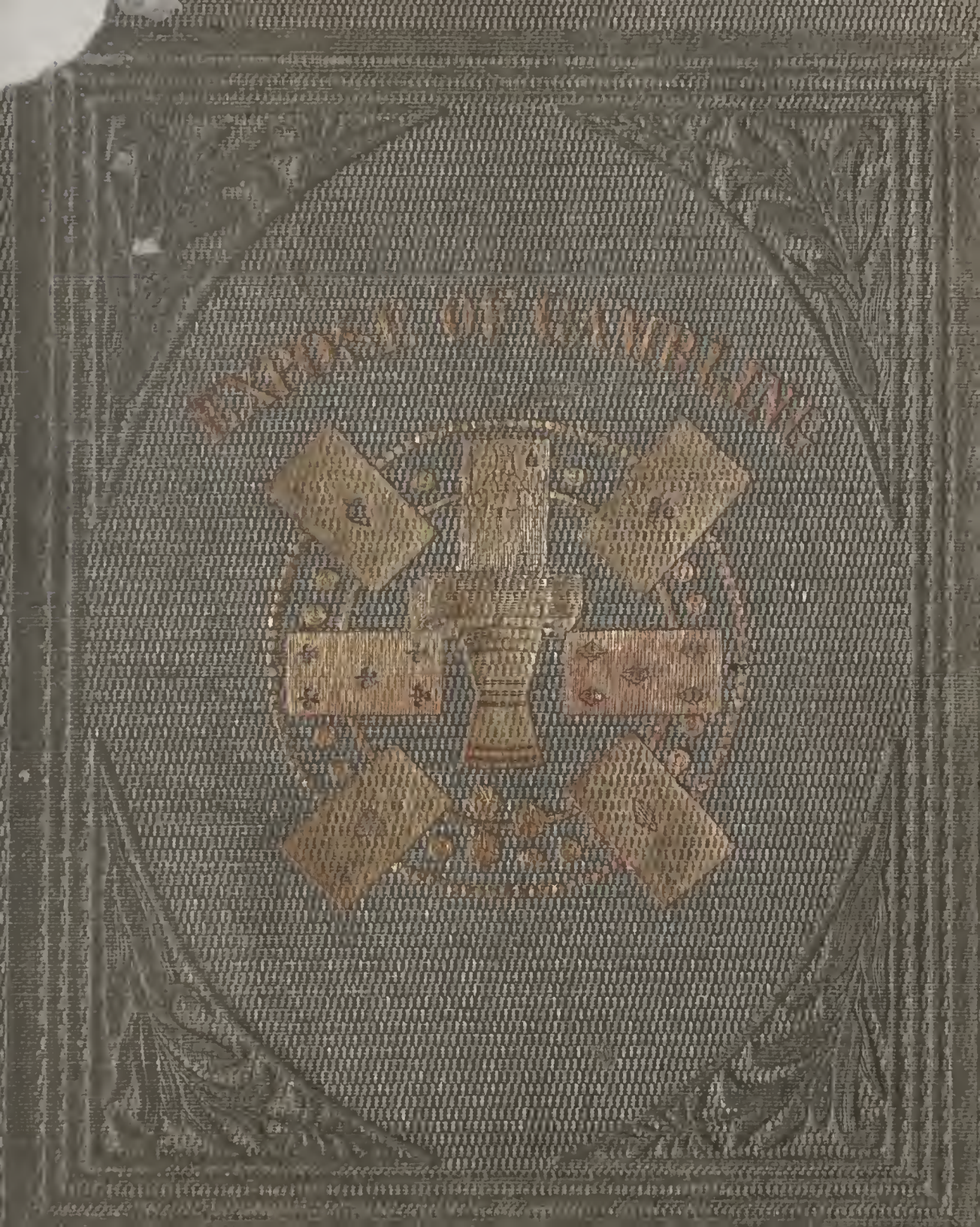


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A GRAND EXPOSÉ

OF

THE SCIENCE OF GAMBLING

CONTAINING

A Complete Disclosure of the Secrets of the Art.

AS PRACTICED BY

PROFESSIONAL GAMBLERS.

WRITTEN BY AN ADEPT.

NEW YORK:

FREDERIC A. BRADY, PUBLISHER,

No. 24 ANN STREET.

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Gift—Oct. 12, 1955

A GRAND EXPOSE

OF

THE SCIENCE OF GAMBLING.

The Game of Faro.

A full and correct exposition of the fraudulent character of the Game of Faro, with all the ingenious devices and arts connected with this dangerous game, with the manner of manufacturing different kinds of cheating cards used at this game ; also an explanation of a secret known only to gamblers, called "snaking cards," a very ingenious plan which gamblers use to swindle each other at the Game of Faro, or any person who may be selected as a victim.

Several years since a reformed gamester, by the name of Green, placed a work before the public, purporting to be an *exposé* of the mysteries of gaming. This book doubtless produced a very desirable effect upon the public mind, but it would not be of much value at the present day, as such skillful improvements have been made during the past ten or fifteen years in gaming, that I doubt not Mr. Green himself would now prove an easy victim to the professional gamester, provided he has not been engaged at gaming since he issued his book on the subject.

Side Strippers.

In regard to the fraudulent character of the Game of Faro, I shall commence by first describing the peculiar kind of card known among gamblers by the name of "Side Strippers." This is a deck of cards cut and prepared for use by gamblers in the following manner, with a machine with scissors attached to it, which is manufactured for the purpose. The cards purchased for this

purpose are selected with care—thin and elastic cards being preferable to any others. They are first trimmed with this machine (above mentioned) perfectly square—then each card of the deck is trimmed on the edges so as to leave them similar in shape to a wedge ; that is, they are a trifle wider at one end than the other, so trifling that no one not posted would ever observe it. It is then decided if the deck is to be arranged so as to play one end against the other ; that is, the ace, deuce, tray, king, queen and jack, to play against the four, five, six, ten, nine and eight. Now the first named cards, with two of the sevens, are placed together, making one half of the deck ; then the latter named cards above, with the other two sevens which constitute the other half of the deck, are placed together—they are still smooth and even on the edges ; they are then equally divided as I have designated them by name above ; then one half the deck is turned round, and you have a deck of strippers.

The gambler then, can shuffle them in every manner, by giving the deck a quick pull and holding each end of the deck between his thumb and finger, and one half the

deck is stripped from the other, bringing the cards all back to their original positions as described above. The gambler now takes one half the deck, and proceeds carefully with a piece of fine sand paper to sand the backs of one half the deck by rubbing them on the backs, particularly near the edges, (for which I shall give reasons presently,) the other remaining half of the deck are then sanded in the same manner, upon the faces ; each end of the deck is then made smooth by rubbing them upon a piece of sand paper, and you have a complete deck of strippers ready for use.

I shall now proceed to the manner of using them—the dealer first shuffles them well from top to bottom, it is a fair shuffle, no fault can be found. After shuffling them a sufficient length of time, the dealer suddenly, and with a slight movement of his hands, pulls or strips the deck as above described ; then taking one half the deck in one hand, and the other half in the other hand, and placing the ends together, runs them in, thereby displacing every card in the deck by this process of running them. In one half of the layer out, cards in the

order as mentioned above will win through, and the other half also mentioned above, will lose through. The cards are now cut and placed in the box ; now, whichever card commences winning, will win through, and the card which commences losing will lose through, and this would actually occur, but that the dealer has actually the power to cause any card in the box to win or lose as he may think proper. If the victim commences betting on the losing cards, he cannot win a bet, because they will continue to lose ; but should the customer (as he might do) commence betting on some of the winning cards, the dealer can instantly change the run of the cards and cause those which have been winning to commence losing, and those which have been losing to commence winning. But what produces this sudden and remarkable change ? A very easy and simple process to the dealer—he simply presses a lever attached to the box, and takes two cards instead of one, by this means, reversing the run of the cards.

It is readily perceived that the dealer has complete control over every bet put down against him ; perhaps

the dealer may have occasion to take two again for the purpose of changing a run of cards the second time ; in fact, he must do so again before the deal is out, because it is necessary to take two an even number of times to prevent having a misdeal at the end of the deal.

The Capper.

When such a game as this is in progress, there is always a Capper on hand, and betting, of course, against the game he is playing, simply to aid the dealer as occasion may require ; he is always sure to keep the cues, and very correctly, too. When the dealer has occasion to take two cards, of course there is an invisible card beneath the one seen, but adhering so very close that it is impossible for any person to observe that there is more than one. This card, which is not seen, is thrown in such a manner by the dealer, that he can find it at any moment. After a short time he carefully shows this card to the Capper, who marks it as either having won

or lost, without being observed. In consequence of marking this card, which is never seen, only by the Capper, of course the cue comes out perfectly correct. As a general thing, when one person is keeping the cues, no one else will ; and, in fact, the generality of young men who play, seldom know how, or else can keep them so very imperfect, or very slow, that they are willing to resign their cue paper to any one else who will take the trouble to keep them. Sometimes a customer will ask for a cue paper—the dealer may inform him that his cue papers have run out ; but, should he insist, he will be supplied with one. Should he be a little on the sharp, he will be much mistaken in detecting the dealer, because at the next deal the dealer will not run the cards in as before, but will simply, after shuffling them, pull them, cut them, and place them in the box ; the result will be that the cards being simply pulled, the cards of the same size will be brought very nearly together, and many of them immediately so, producing probably producing eight or ten splits on the deal, which would be difficult to beat ; there is usually one or two splits during a deal.

The Chopping Deal.

Perhaps the next deal, the dealer will, after shuffling them, pull them, and run them in twice instead of once, thereby producing a chopping deal, that is, most of the cards would first win and then lose, then lose, then win and lose again to the end of the deal ; consequently, no one could win a parale bet, that is, win one bet twice on the same card. At this time, should any one have played in great luck and be winner, the dealer will give them a rough deal occasionally. One rough deal would be sufficient to win in nearly, or perhaps all the checks that were out. Of course, when this occurs, the cues will not come out correct to any person who may be keeping them, except the Capper. The victim who is keeping them will very likely presume that he has neglected taking down a turn, and he has only failed keeping them correct once or twice, and thus the game progresses until all the victims are fleeced. They presume they have simply played in bad luck and retire ; other customers arrive and the same scene is enacted over again.

Expose of the Dealing Box.

In regard to the manner in which two cards are taken from the box, without detection, it is exceedingly ingenious. The dealing box is manufactured expressly for the purpose, and costs usually about one hundred dollars, being about double the price of a square box, (by the bye, a square box is an article I have never seen,) and I have examined a number of them. These boxes are made principally in New York, and other large cities, although there is a jeweler in Petersburg who makes them, and they are considered a very superior article by gamblers.

These double boxes are made in the following manner : the front side of the box is made double, that is, composed of two plates placed near together, with another thin plate which works between the two. The center plate, when stationary, reaches a little above the other two false plates, which admits of one card being taken from the box at one time. Connected with this center plate is a lever which is worked at the back part of the box ; there are two metal bars running across each end

of the box, inside. The bar nearest the dealer is the lever by which this delicate machinery is worked. The dealer has only to give a slight pressure on this lever with his finger, which causes this center plate (above mentioned) to fall a very little, which instantly admits two cards to pass through the mouth of the box ; instantly the finger is raised from the lever, which permits this center plate to return to its original position. Another ingenious peculiarity about this box is, that this lever can be locked and unlocked at pleasure, in a second of time, that is, this lever can be made stationary at any moment, which is to prevent any person from accidentally discovering this secret lever. This lever is locked by gently pushing a very little towards the front part of the box, and unlocked by pushing it back to its original position. This kind of box which I have just mentioned is the latest and most ingenious invention of the kind.

The Screw Box.

There is another box used by some, called the screw box ; the plates are all arranged similar to the one above mentioned, the difference being that the lever is worked by pressing downwards on a screw outside the box nearest the dealer.

Another, and still older invention, which is seldom or never used, is called the tilt box. Two cards are taken by pressing downwards on the back of the lid, which widens the mouth of the box, thereby permitting two cards to pass through.

Many years ago, Faro was dealt by placing the cards in the box with the backs up instead of the faces, as it is now played. The top of the box was nearly all covered over, only leaving a place for the finger to push the card from the box, the first card taken from the box being the winner and the second one the loser. This species of dealing was equally as fraudulent as the present system of Faro. This kind of box was so manufactured that the dealer could take the second card instead of the first, at his pleasure, and the top of the

card being nearly covered over, of course no person could observe if the card on top was taken first or not. Each card in the deck was marked on the back, so that the dealer could easily know before he made a turn which card would win and which would lose ; for example, should a person have a bet on the king, and the dealer should observe that the king would win, the dealer has only to take the second card instead of the first, which causes some other card to win and the king to lose on the turn. The reader will readily perceive that the dealer in this case has complete control over any bet which may be made against him. This manner of dealing Faro is somewhat in use at this time ; in fact, it was played in in this State a short time since. There are other older inventions but they are not worth mentioning.

Sanding the Cards.

I said that I would state the reasons for sanding the cards after being made into strippers, and I will now do

so. By rubbing them with sand paper they are made rough and many small particles of sand are left imbedded in each card ; thus, when two are taken, this sand causes them to adhere closely together. Particular care is taken to sand the edge of each card to prevent them from separating when two are being taken from the box.

The cards termed strippers, as has been described, is the most common cheating card in use ; and I shall now proceed to show the various improvements that have been made from the common side stripper to the most ingenious card now known and in use.

Rakes.

The next card which possesses advantages over the side stripper, is called rakes, or end strippers. These cards are cut at the ends instead of the sides, as the common stripper ; they are arranged, sanded, &c., in a similar manner as the stripper previously described. This card is used in the following manner : During the last

turn of a deal, and while the bettors are deciding which way they shall call the turn, &c., the dealer quietly pulls the cards from the ends, that is, endways. After making the last turn, the dealer instantly runs them in endways, as described before ; the cards may then be shuffled any length of time without ever changing their relative positions. The cards will be apparently displaced, but it is not really the case ; the cards remaining adhered two together all through the deck during the process of shuffling. This may appear almost incredible, but it is strictly true, and it is owing to the manner in which they are cut, and from the fact of their being sanded. After being put in the box they are managed in the same way as common strippers. I will here state that the common stripper, after being pulled and run in, cannot be shuffled again without displacing the position of the cards ; hence the advantage of rakes over strippers.

Hollows and Rounds.

The next kind of cards which I shall describe are called hollows and rounds, and squares and rounds. These two kinds of cards are acknowledged by gamblers to be the most ingenious now in use, which is, beyond a doubt, true. The hollows and rounds are made in the following manner: It is first decided how they are to be arranged, as in the case of the strippers, mentioned above; then one half of the deck is cut so as to leave each a little rounded on the edges, which makes them a trifle wider in the middle than at either end; the other half of the deck remains square. Now, by placing the two half decks together they can be stripped or pulled the same as the common strippers—the difference being that the common strippers are stripped by being pulled lengthways and from the ends, while the hollows and rounds are stripped by pulling them lengthways from the middle of the deck; thus, a person who has seen a deck of common strippers, could not pull a deck of rounds or a deck of rakes either, and consequently would

think they were fair cards ; and another great advantage which these cards possess over others, is that they can be turned around and thrown about the table, and still they are not divested of their fraudulent character as strippers and rakes would be, should they be used in the same manner.

There are some few persons, who, having heard of strippers, often turn the cards around if they suspect they are being cheated ; such a proceeding would have no effect whatever upon such a card as just described ; hence the bettor in such a case would be satisfied that he was playing against a square game. I am told that many professional gamblers could be swindled five or six years ago with this kind of card. Squares and rounds are made much in the same manner—they are cut to pull from the ends, like rakes ; they also can be turned round without producing any effect on them ; also, like hollows and rounds, they can be shuffled after being pulled and run in without changing the relative position of the cards ; they take two and use them otherwise in the same manner as described of the common strippers

It will readily be perceived how easily the uninitiated can be swindled at this game with these ingenious contrivances of the professional gambler. The reader (if he be not a gambler) will now presume that he has learned all the secrets of the game of Faro, and if the cues should come out correct by his keeping, that it would be an impossibility for the gambler to swindle him at the game of Faro. To such I must say that they are still ignorant of the entire system of this game. I have yet some very important expositions of this game to make which I have no doubt will surprise the reader as much or more than the expositions I have already made.

Fifty Threes.

I shall first give an exposé of a particular kind of cards known among gamblers as fifty threes ; this is a prepared deck containing fifty three, one more than a legitimate deck contains. This odd card is never seen by the bettor ; the cues come out correct and there is

nothing seen which the bettor can complain of. The advantage of this peculiar deck of cards to the gambler is that it gives him one sure turn during each deal, and is usually played on the last turn. When it comes to a call, the bettor cannot win, no matter where he makes a bet ; but, on the contrary, he is sure to lose ; he can neither call the last turn correct nor win a bet at this time. It will be perceived that this is a vast additional per centage in favor of the game, so great that a person cannot beat it once in fifty times, unless he should play in remarkable good luck. The generality of persons call it on the last turn and also bet high because they can bet on single cards, which prevents the probability of their being split. Of course, everybody who plays cards is aware of my meaning when I speak of calling it on the last turn—it is simply calling the last three cards as they come successively out of the box. It can come one of six different ways. Should you call it correct you are paid four times the amount you bet, which will be seen is a large per centage in favor of the bank.

I will now describe the manner in which a deck of

fifty threes is made, and also how they are played. A common deck of cards is first taken, to which is added another card, no matter what size ; we will suppose this card to be an ace, then we have five aces in the deck ; all the cards are then sanded with sand paper, except the five aces ; these aces are then marked on the back with one or two dots with a pencil, so as to be recognized instantly when seen by the backs. The deck is then ready for use, and is played in the following manner : They are first shuffled a few times from bottom to top, the dealer not knowing, then, the position of a card in the deck ; he then commences finding the aces, which is easily done from the fact that they are the only cards which are not sanded, and because they are marked on the back so as to be recognized ; the dealer, while shuffling, finds one of the aces, which he shuffles so as to place it on the top of the deck, then another card (except an ace) is shuffled over this ace which has just been found, then another ace is found and shuffled on top of the deck, then some other card is shuffled over this ace ; a false cut (done in various ways) is then given to the deck,

which is really no cut at all ; they are then placed in the box and the game progresses till there is only one turn in the box—we will then suppose the last turn in the box consists of the following cards : an ace, king and queen ; of course there are two aces, though only one is shown ; if the dealer wishes to make the ace lose he makes a turn, then takes two cards, as described elsewhere ; the bottom one of these two cards which are taken at once being one of the aces, which leaves one card in the box, as it should be. Should he desire to make the ace win he takes two on the first turn, then only one afterwards, which causes one of the aces never to be seen, and leaves one card in the box, making the cues and last turn come out correct. This is impossible to be detected by any one unless he be a professional gambler, and in fact, it has been played on gamblers. Sometimes the cards are cut fairly, and this odd card is played in the middle of the deck ; in this case, when the dealer arrives where these aces are arranged, he is aware of it, and then acts in the same manner as described above on the last turn. It will be perceived that this is an exceedingly ingenious

arrangement, calculated to deceive any one who may not be fully initiated in the secrets of gaming.

There are still other means resorted to by the gambler to rob his victim, which I must mention, as I propose to offer a complete exposition of the fraudulent character of this game.

The professional gambler can use a square box and square cards, and play such advantages on persons not posted, as to be almost sure of beating them ; for instance, should a person, while playing against the game, make any favorite cards, that is, select favorite cards to bet on, (which is very often done,) the next deal the dealer can easily cause these favorite cards to win or lose through, as he may desire, the bettor never suspecting but that it was accidental. As these favorite cards come out of the box the dealer places them at the bottom, (when the bettor is not observing,) at the end of the deal ; these cards being at the bottom, are not disturbed while shuffling. The deck is then run in endways, and these cards being separated, will either win or lose through, according to the manner in which the dealer desires them.

Sometimes four or five cards of different denominations are placed together by the gambler while making a deal, afterwards the deck is shuffled without disturbing them, they are then run in, cut, and put in the box ; these cards will then either win or lose through, as chance may determine. In either case it will certainly deceive the bettors, because, should certain cards lose two or three times, the bettors would be likely to copper them, that is, play them to lose. The gambler being aware that this system is almost universally adopted by persons who play against the game of Faro, can easily take advantage of the bettors in the manner described.

Again, should the bettor make a favorite of certain cards, the dealer, while making the deal, will carelessly place these favorites at the bottom of the deck, and when he shuffles for the next deal these cards are not displaced ; the consequence is, these cards will split and the bettor will lose half his bet, and presume that it was his ill-luck that his favorite cards should split, as he observes nothing incorrect about the game. Sometimes, if the bettor should watch the dealer very closely while

shuffling, he will have a deck prepared, so that favorite cards will lose through, placed in his lap already in a box precisely in appearance to the one he is using, and while the attention of the bettor is attracted away for a second, he rapidly changes the boxes. The box which he had been using is now in his lap, which is secretly removed by a confederate. This trick is often played upon sharpers where there can be no cheating cards used. Many persons have favorite cue cards which they play to win, but as soon as the dealer observes this fact, those cue cards will be made to lose at every future deal, which is done in the following manner: while making a deal, the card desired is placed at the bottom of one part of the deck, which will be the top when the cards are turned over. Now, if the dealer desires this cue card to win, he shuffles an odd number over it, then gives the deck a false cut and places them in the box; then this cue card will win or lose, according to the number of cards which has been shuffled over it.

The Cat Hop.

There is another little trick called the cat hop ; the cards being so shuffled that on the last turn there will be two double cards in and one single one ; that is, for instance, there will be two jacks and one ace ; now, in such a case as this, the bettors will be sure to bet on the ace in preference to the jack, because, should they bet on the jack, they would have to take the chances of being a split ; everybody plays a card to win oftener than to lose, consequently, this trick will deceive any one, even if he be a gambler, if he did not observe the dealer while shuffling the cards. In this trick, the ace will lose on the turn, and is done simply by placing any two cards of the same size at the top of the deck, which makes the cat hop at once ; care is taken not to disturb the two top cards while shuffling ; a false cut is then given the deck, and then put in the box, and on the last turn the single card will lose, and the double card will win, as stated above.

There is still another plan in use whereby certain cards can be made to win or lose through, which is done with

a deck of smooth strippers ; they are cut in the same manner as described elsewhere, the difference being that they are not sanded ; the object not being to take two at any time with this description of card ; they are so arranged, after being cut, that after pulling them and running them in, certain cards will win or lose through ; the pot cards, which are the six, seven and eight, may be arranged so as to win or lose through ; in either case the bettors would not play any cards to go through, and consequently would be swindled at this trick.

I shall not take time to mention other small advantages practiced at this game, but shall conclude the subject of Faro and proceed to the exposition of other popular games ; but, in conclusion, I will state that I have been informed by gamblers, that in New York, and perhaps other large cities, many of the gamblers have become so skillful at the game of Faro, that they can take a box and square cards, and permit the bettor to shuffle the cards and put them into the box, and then swindle him and win every dollar he may bet against the game.

One of the most notorious and skillful gamblers, probably, in the Union, was beaten out of fifteen thousand dollars on one play, against a swindling game of this description. It is played in the following manner: the dealing box is manufactured for the purpose, in such an ingenious manner as to admit of the bottom of the box to be taken out entirely with springs, cards and all, leaving only one card in the box, which is the top one; the dealing box is placed on the table, immediately on a small secret trap arranged in the table. A confederate is secreted under the table, who quietly performs all the work. Whenever large bets are placed on any card to win, the operator under the table is notified in a secret manner by the dealer of the card. Suppose it should be the ten, the operator immediately touches a spring at the bottom of the box, when all the cards except the top one immediately pass through the bottom of the box and table; the operator then places this particular card so that it will lose on the next turn. The deck is immediately transferred to its proper position again, and this particular card loses on the turn—all this being

done very rapid and quiet by the operator under the table. This ingenious plan will, no doubt, be soon introduced into this State, and others, if it has not been done already. It will be readily perceived that the professional gamester has every advantage of the uninitiated at this game.

There are hundreds of advantages which are practiced, and it will be observed that nearly, or quite all of them, are exceedingly ingenious, fully calculated to deceive a very large majority of those who play against the game.

No doubt after this exposé appears, that all the ingenuity of the gamblers will be brought into requisition for the purpose of inventing new ways and means to swindle, as was the case when Mr. Green issued his work upon the same subject, some ten years since. At the present time, but few tricks which he describes in his book are in use in connection with the game of Faro. Other, and very ingenious improvements have been made, among which are the cards mentioned as rakes, squares and rounds, fifty threes, and snaking cards in various ways, the new style of box now in use, and many other small advantages.

Common strippers were in use before Mr. Green issued his book, but were not used exactly as they are at the present time ; in fact, a great change has been made in the game in every respect during the last ten or twenty years, as I have been informed by all old gamesters.

Snaking Cards.

Any person not initiated in this sort of gaming might take a deck of cards, shuffle them well, and put them in the box ; then, almost any professional gambler could play against the bank, and break the dealer, should he possess millions of dollars ; the cards are made for the purpose, (although perfectly fair to every appearance,) and then wrung in upon such dealer as may be selected for the victim. By the term wrung in, I mean that this prepared kind of card is placed among his other dealing cards in some secret manner when he is not aware of it.

Should the victim have a gambling house, and no other opportunity present itself, his room will be entered late at night by false keys, and these cards will be operated upon in such a manner that the operator can beat his game to a certainty next day, or at any future time.

I have heard of the manner in which some gamblers can gain admittance to Faro banks, which is so skillful, that it led me to suspect that such gamblers, perhaps, sometimes entered houses for other purposes than snaking cards. I can mention gamblers, who, I venture to say, can pick any ordinary lock with a wire or nail, and with a bunch of skeleton keys and a file, can easily gain access to almost any building they may have designs upon. There are a few gamblers who travel the country for the purpose of snaking games, seldom engaging in any other species of gaming. Many gamblers are broke by having their cards snaked, and are not aware of it till years afterwards, and, in some cases, possibly never. Sometimes the person who snakes a game will not play against it in person, but will procure the services of some person who is a stranger to the dealer, thereby warding off any suspicion that the game is snaked.

How Cards are Snaked,

One manner of snaking cards is done as follows, usually certain cards of the deck only are snaked : We will suppose that the pot cards, which are the six, seven or eight, are decided upon to be snaked first ; a square deck of cards is taken, and the sixes, sevens and eights are sanded with sand paper on the backs and faces ; two small dots are then made on the face of each card in the deck, near the edge of each card. The position of these dots on the cards is regulated by measuring on the card with the plate which belongs to the dealing box ; now, when a smooth deck of cards is placed in a dealing box, every time a card is taken from the box, the card next to the one taken is pulled a little forward in consequence of the card taken from the box pressing on the one underneath it. Now, with these snaked cards, the case is somewhat different ; while dealing with these cards, should a smooth one be next to the one drawn from the box, it would be drawn a little forward ; if there is not one of these sanded cards underneath this smooth one. If there should be one of the sanded cards

under the smooth one, the card left on the top, after making a turn, will be held back by the sanded card, which is underneath it, and it will not be pulled forward at all. Now, when a card which is left on the top, after making a turn, is pulled forward, these dots (above mentioned) are visible on the face of the card, denoting that neither of the pot cards can lose on the first turn ; consequently, the pot cards are played to win as long as this dot is visible on the face of the top card. But, in case, after a turn being made, that the top card should not have been pulled forward any, then the dot on the face of the top card could not be seen, denoting that one of the pot cards (which are the six, seven or eight) will certainly lose on the turn ; of course the pot is instantly coppered, that is, betting that the pot will lose. This is a very ingenious arrangement, as will be readily perceived by any person who has ever seen the game of Faro.

Another plan of snaking is as follows : All the cards of either dark suit from the four to the ten are punched through the corner spot with a small instrument, which

is manufactured for the purpose. It is similar to an instrument used by shoemakers to punch holes in shoes for the strings to pass through. Now, whenever a white surface is shown through this small hole, it must either be the ace, deuce, or tray, and would be played to win. These holes are made so very small that the person selected to beat the game has to use magnifying glasses to aid him in seeing through the cards distinctly.

And still another plan, which is done as follows:—Take a deck of cards and divide them, then take a piece of sand-paper and rub the edges of one-half of them, which makes them brighter than those not rubbed with the sand-paper. It is known which cards have a bright edge, and also which have a darker edge. Now a person sitting at the back of the box can easily perceive if the last card in the box has a dark or bright edge, then on the last turn he can easily call it, and also bet correctly on the losing and winning card; for instance, suppose on the last turn there should be in the box a six, seven and eight. We will now suppose that the six has

a bright edge, and seven and eight have a darker edge ; now if the bright edged one should be the first card, of course it would lose, and one of the others would win. It will be readily seen that in such a case the bettor could win as much on the last turn as the banker would permit him to bet.

There is another old plan of snaking cards, which was used several years since, which I shall simply mention, as I am not sufficiently acquainted with it to explain it fully. It is arranged by placing an extra plate in the dealing-box, in connection with a large piece of steel not larger than a cambric needle. The cards are then cut in a peculiar manner on the edges, then the appearance and disappearance of this piece of steel denotes the cards which will win or lose. This piece of steel is said to have resembled a snake's tongue, from the fact of its appearing and disappearing so rapidly ; and, doubtless, this is the reason why the term snaking cards has been used ever since. It will now be readily perceived, that the uninitiated has no chance with the professional gambler at this game, if he should play against it or

deal it. Many persons lose large amounts of money by opening the game of Faro, gamblers presuming that the game has the advantage, which it certainly has, if played fairly. I have no doubt that there are other ways of snaking cards which I am not aware of, as the gamblers are constantly making new inventions for the purpose of swindling each other at this game.

With these remarks, I will conclude the subject of Faro, and proceed to an exposition of the fraudulent character of other popular games.

Roulette.

To those familiar with this game, it would seem unnecessary to use any additional means of swindling, because the percentage in its favor is very large, so much so that the game is very seldom beaten, if played on the square. I remember hearing a gambler remark once, that the percentage of the game was almost as strong as stealing; and, no doubt, he was very correct. Although the percentage of this game is so much in favor of the banker, still the gambler is not satisfied, and has succeeded in inventing plans whereby he can win every bet made against him, if he thinks proper.

At this game there are thirty-one figures. If the bettor should hit a single figure, he is only paid twenty-seven for one; if he should bet on the black

or red, he has the eagle, single O and double O against him, which almost precludes the possibility of the game being beaten. The first kind of cheating roulette I will describe as follows:—The roulette is manufactured for the purpose, the machinery being entirely concealed from view. The circular revolving wheel, and the rim of this wheel, although moving together, and having the appearance of being immovably connected, can be moved either to the right or left, while the rim remains stationary; in other words, the gambler who manages the game can cause the ball to fall in a red or black number, as he may think proper. After throwing the ball, the gambler watches the ball closely, and if it should fall in the red, and the gambler desired it to fall in the black, while the wheel is still revolving the ball is quickly changed to the black, without its being seen by the bettors, which is done by a lever attached to this circular wheel, and connecting with one of the legs of the roulette. This leg has the same appearance as the others, only it is a trifle shorter, not quite touching the table on which the roulette rests.

The gambler has only to touch this leg, while the wheel is revolving, and the ball is changed in a second from one color to another, as he may desire. To show how rapidly the ball can be changed, I will state that I failed to detect it, after having been shown how it was managed, and could only observe it when the wheel was turned very slowly, in order that I might see distinctly how the ball was changed from one color to another. I believe this is considered the most ingenious roulette of the kind in use. There is another kind of roulette which is made in the following manner: One-half of the small pieces of metal which separate the figures are made a trifle higher than the others; now after the bets are down, if the gambler wishes the ball to fall in the red color, he has only to throw the ball round to the right hand, and if he wishes it to fall in the black color he throws the ball to the left. The ball is thrown to the right or left, as the gambler may choose, and, of course, no one would observe that throwing it to the left would cause it to fall on any particular color. It will be seen that a person would have no possible chance to win

playing against such roulettes as above described, and there are a number of them in use, scattered about the country. It is an exceedingly dangerous game, and should be avoided by every one.

Chucker Luck, or Sweat Cloth.

This game is played with three dice and a cloth, on which is painted the figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. When this game is played on the square, the percentage in favor of the game is enormous, probably fifty or one hundred per cent. Although having such a percentage in its favor, this game is seldom or never played fairly. Persons who play against this game are swindled in the following manner: We will suppose that a bet is placed on the six; the gambler, while putting the dice in the box, will skillfully conceal one, and sometimes two of the dice, in the bend of his little finger, with any other number except the six on top; the box is then shaken and the dice thrown, the concealed dice being held close to the mouth of the box; when the box is

raised, there are all three of the dice, apparently having been thrown honestly. Neither of the one or two dice which were hooked will be sixes, thereby reducing the chances of the bettor to one dice, which is six to one against him. Some gamblers who play this game, have a false bottom to the box, which rattles in the absence of the dice which are hooked; others can rattle the box with their fingers, which sound very much like the dice. Others again have a dice suspended about one-third of the distance from the bottom to the top of the box, which rattles against one dice when two are hooked, and, of course, answers the purpose for which it was designed.

Similar deceptions are practiced at the game called over and above seven, and all games where a box and dice are used; and the bettor need not expect to detect him, because the gambler has become so skillful by practice that he will surely deceive him.

Loaded dice were used years ago, at the games mentioned above, but I do not think they are used to a great extent at the present time.

Spout.

This game is but little played or known. It is about the size of a roulette wheel, and shaped something similar to a deep tray. Attached to this, on one side, is a square spout about a foot long. A ball, on which are the colors, black, red, and blue, is thrown up this spout. It then runs down in the tray, finally resting with one of the three colors above mentioned, on top; the black pays even, the red pays two for one, and the blue pays five for one; of course, the largest number of colors are the blacks, and the smallest number of colors are the blues; there are what are termed bars on this ball, and if, instead of any color, it should come a black bar, then the bets on the red and blue lose, and the bets on the black stand off, that is, they neither win nor lose. The percentage of this game is enormous, and to make it

still stronger, the gambler has only to change some of the colors to bars, which is easily done, the bettors not knowing the proper number of bars which should be on the ball, and seldom or never inquiring.

We will now proceed to other popular games, embracing poker or bluff, seven up, vington, &c., as played by gamblers, and also many other sharpers, who are not recognized as gamblers by the community.

Poker, or Bluff.

In most all games of Poker there are generally two or more confederates playing together secretly, for the purpose of swindling the other players, as an opportunity may offer—while the other persons engaged at the game are not aware of it, nor do they even suspect such a fraud being practiced upon them. Should I attempt to mention all the tricks practiced at this game, it would fill a volume almost of itself; therefore, I shall only refer to the most important ones.

At the present day, what is termed draw bluff is played more extensively, perhaps, than the old way of playing the game. There is a greater variety of ways and means used for swindling at draw bluff than at the old fashion bluff. If a victim should be very verdant, the gambler simply stocks the cards, which is easily

done by placing them in a desired position while putting the hands that have been played in the pack ; then, after being shuffled are so left that a partner to the right can easily cut to the exact place desired, or if playing single-handed, the cut will be changed by the gambler placing the deck in the same position as it was before being cut. Gamblers also pass cards from one to the other secretly, for the purpose of increasing each other's hands ; they can also place two or three cards of the same size at the bottom, and shuffle the deck without disturbing them, then the dealer will deal from the bottom when he has to give himself a card. Some can deal so skillful from the bottom, and even from the middle of the deck, as to defy detection. The gambler will sometimes steal out a large hand and secrete it in his lap until some one accidentally gets a good hand, then he will raise the hand which he secreted in his lap, and skillfully drop his legitimate hand where the other was raised from.

Gamblers often deal themselves six cards and sometimes eight, then select the best ones and drop the others

in their lap, to be returned to the deck the first opportunity that offers ; should it be ascertained that a victim had a considerable amount of money about him, and there are two or three gamblers present, he is usually swindled in the following outrageous manner with what is termed—

Cold Decks.

We will suppose that one or two gamblers are playing with a victim ; while they are engaged at play some confederate perhaps, in the next room, arranges a deck of cards exactly like the one being used so as to give the victim a large hand, say four fives, and one of the gamblers four tens. This prepared deck is then secretly placed in the lap of one of the gamblers. Now, when it comes his deal, he takes particular care to shuffle the cards well from bottom to top ; then, perhaps, the victim cuts them, and the cut is placed at the bottom as it should be. At this instant, some confederate attracts the attention of the victim, at which time the dealer skillfully raises the prepared deck from his lap and drops the legitimate deck. The cards are then dealt as

usual, and the victim receives a large hand, but the gambler receives a larger one. Of course, the victim bets heavily on his hand, and is fleeced. These cold decks are repeated until the victim loses every dollar he may have about him ; they are managed in a similar manner as draw bluff.

There are any persons who think they cannot be cheated by a gambler while they are looking at him. I will say to such persons, if they play they will certainly be swindled in some manner in the end. I have seen professional gamblers swindled by raising these cold decks on them, which serves to prove that no one is safe, especially when two or three are combined against one.

In regard to draw bluff there is usually two or more combined to swindle the others, as in most all games. A very deceptive advantage at draw bluff is played in the following manner : One of the gamblers, when it shall have come his deal, will place three or four cards of the same kind on top of the deck, then shuffle so as not to disturb them—the person to the right then cuts them ; the gambler deals with the part of the deck cut

from, which is correct ; then, after making the deal, he skillfully places the remainder of the cards under the other part of the deck, by which means, the confederate at his left will receive a large hand when he draws. Sometimes one of the gamblers, when he deals, will place a large hand at the bottom of the deck ; then shuffle without disturbing them. Now, should there be four playing, a confederate at his right will cut the cards about the middle of the deck, the cut will then be placed under the bottom, but in such a manner that one part of the deck will protrude a very little over the other. The cards are then dealt. Now, when a bettor draws, either the dealer or his partner can easily get the large hand which was placed at the bottom of the deck, because, by cutting the deck half way, it will take nearly that half to deal to four persons, which, on the draw, will throw these cards which have been put at the bottom either in the hands of the dealer or his partner. In case it is a single-handed game, the gambler will place three or four large cards of the same size on top ; then shuffle two or three cards over them, and manage the

cards as described above, and these cards which have been shuffled on top will be drawn by the victim, and the large hand which the gambler put up, will be drawn by him. At other times, the dealer will pass out, then secretly place a pair which he may have held, on the top of the deck, which his partner to the left will, of course, receive on the draw.

At other times, if the gambler should perceive a large card at the bottom of the deck while dealing, he will remember it, and when he helps himself, (suppose he draws three cards, and this card at the bottom should suit him,) he skillfully takes two from the top and this one from the bottom, which probably makes him a good hand. The gambler will also give himself six or seven cards when dealing, which he gets rid of when he discards for the purpose of drawing; at other times he will make a false discard, that is, discard twice, whereby he will certainly get a good hand; for instance, suppose the sharpers should, on the first deal, get four hearts and one card of some other suit; now, if he can manage to get a heart on the draw, it makes him a large

hand, and he will be almost sure of getting it, which he does in the following manner: When he discards, he will discard the four hearts, which he throws down in front of him; when he calls for four cards, now it is likely that there will be a heart in the four cards which he has drawn, and if so, he again discards four cards, keeping the heart which he found among them, and takes up the four hearts which he discarded at first, which makes his hand a flush. This can easily be done while the other players are drawing their hands.

Stamped Cards.

Besides practicing hundreds of tricks and deceptions of this character, they use something else which cannot be seen or detected, and this is stamped and marked cards. These stamped cards are made with some peculiarity on their backs, which causes them to be as readily known by the backs as the faces. Gamblers usually get up the stamp, and they are manufactured by certain parties in New York and other large cities. Their cost is about double the amount of common cards. The marked cards are marked by the gamblers themselves, ordinary cards being used for that purpose. There are various ways of marking them which could not be detected, if looked for, unless by the professional gambler. It would occupy too much time and space to describe every stamp of marked cards; and, besides, I am in-

clined to the opinion that I should not be performing my duty should I do so, but I will here state that there is not any kind of card sold at any bookstore, but what an exact pattern of it can be purchased already stamped, so as to be known by the backs as well as the faces. These stamped cards are getting to be circulated quite extensively through the country by sharpers and others, who are not suspected of using unfair cards; they cannot be distinguished from a fair card, and any one can easily learn them with practice, so as to read them very rapidly.

These cards are known more or less by all professional gamblers, though many sharpers are beaten with stamped cards. Of course the professional gamblers endeavor to keep the existence of stamped cards a secret from outsiders, but gamblers sometimes make associates of persons who are not known as gamblers, and finally show such persons some kind of marked or stamped cards, and thus it becomes known to many persons who are never suspected. These kinds of cards are used at all games, especially at the games of bluff, vingt-un, &c.

As this is simply written for the purpose of exposing the fraudulent character of gaming, I do not deem it advisable to mention the names of any parties who manufacture such cards, or where they may be procured. We will now proceed to the game of vingt-un or twenty-one, which is a very popular game.

Vingt-un, or Twenty-one.

As most every person is acquainted with this game, it is not necessary to describe it. It is well known that the dealer has a large percentage in his favor, but the gambler is not satisfied with this percentage, but can easily have the game sure whenever he deals it. At all games of vingt-un by gamblers, either stamped or marked cards are always used. Usually, at this game, the dealer has a capper who sits at his right hand, who will draw until a card, which is on top, shall suit his hand, which can be easily done so that the other bettors would never suspect that any fraudulent means were being used. At other times (when he has no capper), if the top card should not suit his hand, he will take the second one from the top, which can be done so skillfully as to defy detection, or while he is dealing the hands, if he

should discover a card which would suit his hand, he will keep it back for himself, by dealing the second card to the bettors.

Should some one of the bettors insist that the dealer shall use another deck which may be square, it will not avail him, because in a little while the dealer will succeed in marking the entire deck with his finger nail, so as to be recognized by their touch, which is done by pressing the finger nail near the corners on the face of the cards, which can be readily felt on the back and recognized, as well as by the faces. Sometimes this game is played by dealing from the bottom instead of the top, which is the usual way. In this case many persons would suppose that if the dealer knew the cards by the back, the knowledge would be of no service to him, as the cards could not be seen from the bottom; but this is a mistake, for the gamester can tell the size of each card by the touch as if he saw the face of it; this is usually done by sanding the cards on their faces, near their corners, with a piece of sand-paper, which makes them rough on their faces, and then they can

readily be told by feeling of them. This game is usually played on race-tracks, steamboats, &c., and may always be safely put down as a swindle. It will readily be seen that this is a dangerous game, and should always be avoided. The next game, which I shall mention, is seven up, or all fours.

Seven Up, or All Fours.

This is also a popular game, and often played for large amounts, but like all other games, there are hundreds of ways whereby the gambler and sharper always swindle the uninitiated. Stamped cards are often used at this game, besides many other advantages, among which I shall mention some of the most prominent ones. First there is played what is termed the whole and the half-stock, but the half-stock can be played with less chance of detection than the whole-stock, as will be seen by reading this explanation. The whole-stock is managed in a similar manner as they are stocked at bluff or poker. The cards are placed on top, so that the dealer, or his partner, will receive a good hand after certain cards are placed on top of the deck as desired; the deck

is shuffled so that these cards are not disturbed, then after being cut, instead of placing the cut under the bottom, it is skillfully changed back to the top, which leaves the top cards in the same position as they were first arranged. The half-stock is played in the following manner:—We will suppose that the gambler is playing alone with some victim; when it is the gambler's deal he will secretly get hold of a jack and six other cards, including the ace and deuce of the same sort as the jack—the jack being placed at the bottom of these seven cards, and the ace and deuce next to it; these seven cards are then placed on top of the deck, which is shuffled without disturbing them. The cards are then cut and dealt, the part of the deck which has been cut off, remaining on the table; after the cards are dealt the dealer changes the trump-card skillfully from the part of the deck to which it belongs, to the part of the deck first cut off. Now should the victim beg, the dealer will run them, and turn a jack and get the ace and deuce of trumps, if none others.

The gambler can also steal cards out of the deck while

playing for the purpose of making a good hand. The cards usually stole out for this purpose are the aces and deuces, because they are the most valuable ; then, when the victim deals the gambler supplies his hand with those which he has stolen from the deck, and those which he has discarded he secretes in his lap, to be returned to the deck on the first opportunity. This can be played upon the uninitiated very readily without detection. Some gamblers can conceal a card in the palm of the hand to be used for the purpose without being detected.

Another advantage played by gamblers is to place one or more tens at the bottom of the deck, and then so shuffle as not to disturb them ; after they are cut and dealt, he will know if these tens are out, and who has them ; he tells this by observing where the cards are cut. If his opponent holds these tens he will not lead the suit corresponding with them, thus preventing his opponent from making them ; if these two should be in the deck, he will lead the corresponding suit, and not lead any other, if possible. Any person acquainted with the

game will readily perceive the advantage of this trick to the gambler, as the game is the most important point to be made, because the other three points will make themselves.

Most any professional gamester can turn up a jack every time he deals, and as this is a very important feature of the game I will describe the different ways by which it is accomplished : Sometimes, if the victim is very verdant, the gamester will attract his attention at the instant he is about turning the trump, then skillfully draw the card from the bottom (which is the jack) and turn it up as if it had been the legitimate top card. Another and a still better plan is this : first a jack is placed at the bottom of the deck while shuffling ; then, when the cards are cut, the gamester deals from the bottom portion of the deck, which is correct ; now, the gamester, in giving himself his last three cards, places his middle finger on the bottom card of the deck, and as he takes his three cards from the top, he also brings this bottom one forward, directly under the three, so that it cannot be seen ; he now has four cards in his hand ; he

then gives himself the three top ones, and turns up the fourth one for trumps, which, of course, is the jack which he has taken so skillfully from the bottom with his finger. Another plan is to mark the jacks so that they can be recognized by the backs ; then, while dealing, if the gamester should discover a jack, he can easily keep it back by dealing the three cards underneath it ; then, after dealing, he turns it up for a trump, which, of course, counts him one point immediately. Some gamesters are so skillful that they can conceal a jack in the hand, and shuffle and deal without its being seen, then turn it up as a trump. At other times they deal themselves seven cards, or more, and drop those they do not want in their lap.

The Long Hand of Seven Up.

As this deception is practiced to a very great extent on the uninitiated by gamblers and sharpers, I will describe the mode of operation. Of course it is a swindle

of the most outrageous character, and about on a par with the ball game, thimbles, &c., and usually played by the lowest order of gamesters ; but most any of them will play it when they can get nothing else to do, or if they are broke. This game is usually played on race tracks, steamboats, and often in gaming houses. It is played in the following manner : We will suppose that a roper in should pick up a sucker and succeed in enticing him to a gaming house ; and on arriving there, if the sucker could not be induced to play against faro, he would be invited to play a game of all fours for a trifle, perhaps a quarter or a half, the amount being nothing, as the object in view is to get him to play one game. The sharp will then call for a deck of cards which has been prepared for such occasions, by arranging the cards in such a position that both of them will receive good hands, but the sucker will hold the ace, deuce, jack, and other trumps and face cards, indicating that he could make four times certain. The sharp will ask the sucker how many times he can make ; when, of course, he will reply that he can make four times certain. Sharper

will then offer to make a bet that sucker cannot make four times, and as he does not suspect fraud if he has never seen the trick before, he will almost be sure to be caught, as he will consider that it is a good chance to make some money easy. If he makes a bet he is swindled, as he can only make high, low and jack, when the sharp will make game by one or two points, thereby making it appear that he won by chance. After the game has concluded, some victims, suspecting fraud, will endeavor to regain their money, but seldom succeed—while others will never suspect but that the whole affair was chance, and in all probability will never mention the circumstance to any one. The writer has known many intelligent gentlemen who have been swindled at this game.

At other times, if the victim refuses to play, a game of all fours will be proposed by two of the gamesters who may be present, and his attention will be called to this large hand, (described above,) and he will be induced to bet that four times can be made with it, when he will lose as in the other case.

Three Card Monte.

This game is of the same stamp as the long hand of seven up. It is played with three cards, which are bent so as to rest on the two edges ; first they are all placed on a table, face down, then one of the cards, will be shown to those who may be standing by. The gamester will tell them to watch that card particularly and he proceeds to throw the cards over each other very rapidly for a short time, when he stops and offers to bet that no person can point out the card which was shown at first. It is not probable that any bystanders will bet unless it be a confederate, as the chances would be two to one against him in guessing one out of the three cards ; but now I shall expose the fraudulent character of this game. We will suppose that the three cards

which the gamester uses, are the ace, deuce and tray ; while he is endeavoring to get a bet, he will turn his head away from the cards a moment under some pretence, and as he does so, an accomplice quickly marks the back of the ace with a pencil, and then calls the attention of the most verdant looking bystander to this fact, and tells him, in a whisper, that he has marked the back of one of the cards, and that if the gamester will show this card, then he may throw them about as rapidly as he chooses, but the card can be pointed out, from the fact of its having been marked on the back without the gamester's knowledge. The victim will eagerly embrace the opportunity of getting the best of the gamester, and probably will propose a bet with him, that he can point out either card which he may show when the victim accepts the bet. The victim then requests the gambler to show the card that has been marked, which he readily does, to all appearances, but instead of doing so he skillfully changes the ace which is marked, and shows the victim the deuce instead. The gambler then throws the cards rapidly over each other, then stops

and requests the victim to put his hand on the card which was shown at first, when the victim will, of course, put his hand on the card which he saw marked, and turns it face up, when, to his surprise, it proves to be the ace instead of the deuce, and the victim loses his bet, and is, thereby, swindled. The fraudulent character of this trick will be readily understood by the reader. Sometimes an accomplice will go through the process of marking the card, &c., then make a bet and win, for the purpose of inducing others to risk their money. There may be persons, after reading this, who may say that they never could be swindled at such a trick as this; but the writer can assure such persons that hundreds of intelligent persons are swindled at this trick, annually, in every section of the country, by gamblers and sharpers; in fact, there are but few persons who are inclined to bet, and who have never seen the trick performed, but who will be deceived and lose their money on it. These facts have been proved by thousands of actual occurrences.

Race Courses, Mysteries of the Turf, &c.

I presume that it will be conceded, that so far as regards simply witnessing the speed of horses on a race course or elsewhere, that there can be no material harm done in so doing, but there are secrets connected with the race track which the greater portion of outsiders are not aware of, and I shall lay before the reader some hints in relation to this subject, which may be beneficial to him in the future; and I wish to be distinctly understood, that these remarks are not based upon any false prejudices, which a person might entertain in relation to the turf, but on the contrary, I shall speak from actual observation and partial knowledge of the facts of the case. It is probable that there are some proprietors of race courses, who act in an honest and correct man-

ner in all business relations to the turf, &c., but the same cannot be said of the greater portion of them. It may not universally be known that the larger portion of race course proprietors and others who are secretly connected with them, are either gamblers or sharpers, which fact speaks volumes for itself. I believe it is a well established fact, that there never has been a game yet known, where money was risked, that the professional gamester and sharper did not succeed in inventing ways and means whereby they might swindle the verdant and unsuspecting, and it would be folly to suppose that the race track, with all its attendant vices, should be an exception to this established rule. In connection with this subject, I will mention that one of the most extensive and popular turfmen of this country is a notorious gambler and sharper, and commenced his career by practicing the lowest and most degrading species of gaming known to gamblers, such as thimbles and various other species of swindling of a like character. This individual is supposed to be wealthy, and associates with persons who are presumed to be gentlemen.

He has even crossed the Atlantic, and associated with and made bets with Lords and Dukes, and recognized as a gentleman. Now a young man, who becomes infatuated with the vices of a race course farther than witnessing the speed of a favorite horse, cannot predict the ruinous results which are sure to follow.

A person may bet another, who is equally as verdant as himself about such matters, and in such a case the chances would be equal as to which would win or lose, but the great harm done in this case is, that a love of betting and gaming is contracted, which is difficult to abstain from at any future time. After a while, our verdant friends will make bets indiscriminately with any person, then they fall into the clutches of the gamester and sharper, when they are fleeced nine times in ten, because when a professional gambler or sharper makes a bet with a person who is ignorant of the subject in question, he is almost sure to have the game dead. In

most cases, many gamblers and sharpers receive points in relation to the race, or, in plain English, they are posted as to which horse will win, and often the horse that will win or lose each heat. This proceeding is managed in different ways; sometimes it is managed by one or both of the proprietors, and at other times it is done by bribing a certain rider to throw off a certain heat, or, perhaps, the race entire. This may be done, sometimes, without the knowledge of the proprietors. At other times a favorite horse will be secretly visited before the race, and some medical preparation administered to him, which will produce weakness and general debility, and if not discovered, will, in every probability, lose the race, and if the owner is obliged to play or pay, there is no way to avoid being swindled, even if the fraud is discovered before the race takes place. It will be perceived that an outsider's chance for winning would be very limited in such cases where such outrageous

frauds are practiced. It is well known that when a race is announced it is a signal for the assembly of all the pickpockets, thieves, and gamblers of every grade, from the three card monte and thimble player to the faro dealer, which, so far as regards its fraudulent character, is no less a swindle than the former games. The gamblers pay the proprietors of a race course such an amount for the privilege of carrying on their fraudulent games, and they can afford to pay a good price for such privilege, as they are well aware that out of such a concourse of people as usually attend such places, there must be many who will patronize them through ignorance and a natural love of betting, no matter whether they understand the game or not. In some cases, the proprietors of the course are interested in the games. It will be observed that no good results can follow from habitually visiting race courses in general, and the young man who does so, will, in all probability, contract

vices which will be exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, to eradicate.

These remarks are made by one who is posted on such matters, and who speaks with the kindest feelings to young men universally, and would call their particular attention to this subject. Profit by the hints herein given, and you will never have cause to repent the course you will have adopted.

The Arm Strap.

I will here give a description of a very ingenious thing made by a man in the Prison of Sing Sing, who was a gambler by profession, but was driven to desperation and committed forgery, and was sentenced for seven years, and while confined, his mind was wholly on the game of faro, and was continually studying how to beat it, and invented the following thing, which is made in the following way:—By taking two pieces of tin, a little wider than a common playing card, and joining them together closely, leaving room enough to hold from six to eight cards, while on the bottom is a spring act-

ing on the ends of the cards. This spring is made to work about an inch, with force enough to throw the cards out, and fastened to this tin are two straps, which fasten it tight on the arm, and leading from this spring is a small India rubber cord, which runs to the middle finger, and a person using this should have a cap on the middle finger, to make it appear as if the finger was sore, to allay suspicion. This cord is made fast to the cap on the finger, and by bending the finger forward it pulls this cord, which immediately works the spring, and throws the cards out; and a person cutting a pack of cards by this means, can ring in on the dealer some six cards, and they can be done so that no man can detect it. I have set and seen men cut the cards a dozen times, and could not detect him or hear the spring work. The person betting against faro has the privilege of cutting the cards, and with one of those things he could ruin the dealer, providing there was no limits to the

game. This can also be used in playing poker, and giving your adversary four kings and yourself four aces, by slipping the cut or top, but could not play it but once in faro, as the cards would come out wrong, and would be detected.

The Convex, or Dog eat Dog

I will here give a description of a very ingenious thing used by gamblers, called a convex, which is about the size of a half dollar, and is a very powerful magnifying glass, used only in cases of playing single handed, and is placed upon the knee, and as the cards are dealt off, one at a time, the person having the convex can see the face of the card magnified, which is a very great advantage, but it is of very little use in playing four handed, as it is very likely to be seen, but single handed, it is of great help to the gambler.

I was once traveling from St. Louis to Peru, at the head of the Illinois River, some ten years since. Among

the passengers was quite an aged man, who allowed he could beat any man on the boat at seven up, providing he could play his own kind of cards. There were several gentlemen aboard who had tried him, and he was some four hundred dollars winner. I asked him to let me look at his cards; I examined them very closely, but could not discover any stamp or marks upon them, and it was quite a mystery to me, how he should have such extraordinary luck. I still thought he could be beat. I told him after tea I would try him a few games, and he appeared to have plenty of money, but I did not take him to be a gambler. I went to the Captain and asked him if he knew the old man? He said he had seen him often on the river, but did not think he was a gambler. But I thought he might have taken higher degrees in gaming than I had, and I was rather suspicious of him; however, after supper was over, and there had been several games started, I told him we

would go away by ourselves, as I could not play where there was a crowd; he said he preferred being alone. We then went away by ourselves, and sat directly under the chandelier, where we had plenty of light, and commenced playing at ten dollars a single game, and he won several games in succession.

I was then satisfied that he was playing some percentage on me but was at a loss to detect him. I made an excuse to get up and get a drink of water, and stepped out on the guards and into my state-room and opened my trunk, and got my convex, and went back and told the old man he was the hardest man to beat I ever saw; he said it was all luck. I asked him if he could play poker with the same luck; he said he knew no other game; we then played another game for ten dollars, and I lost as before. I then proposed doubling the stakes, as it might change my luck; he said it was immaterial to him as he would just as soon play for a

hundred dollars as ten ; we then made it fifty dollars a game, as it would make a shorter game. I then dropped one of the cards, and while picking it up, put my convex on my knee. We then commenced playing—he winning the first game ; he was then one hundred and ten dollars ahead of me ; we then kept playing until about twelve o'clock, when the steward came to us and said it was twelve o'clock, and it was against the rules of the boat to play longer. I said we had better wait until morning, and get a good night's sleep, as we would feel better ; he wished to continue playing ; I said we had better conform to the rules of the boat ; he said he was willing if it was the rules of the boat, but he had traveled the Western rivers for the last twenty years and had never heard of such rules before ; I was then convinced he was an old gambler ; but, before that, I had made up my mind I would play no more with him after that night ; we then took a drink, and each went to bed ; when I

got into my state-room, I found I was seven hundred and fifty dollars winner of him. The next morning, after I arose and got my breakfast, a gentleman asked me how I came out with the old man ; I told him I had won a little ; he asked me how much ; I told him I did not exactly know, but in the neighborhood of a hundred dollars ; he said I was a lucky man, as I was the first man he ever knew that won a dollar of him ; I asked him if he was acquainted with him ; he said he had known him for the last twenty years, and told me his name, and when I heard his name, I remembered of hearing of him before as an old gambler, who had ten years' experience to my one ; but the improvements of the age had got the start of him, as he had been travelling through Mexico for the last five years, and was not posted. Just before the boat reached Peoria he came to me and asked my name ; I told him ; he asked me which way I was going ; I told him I was bound for

Chicago ; he said he had to leave the boat at Peoria, and had to stop and see a brother who was very sick, but he would be on to Chicago in a few days, and would like to see me ; I told him I would stop at the Sherman House, where he could see me, but he never called. It was a mystery to me how he beat me—but a greater mystery to him how I beat him.

The Broker's Game.

The Broker's Game is generally played by one person, and mostly on the cars, and just as they are about starting, in the following way : A man will come in and appear to be in quite a hurry and take a seat by your side, and ask how long before the train will start, knowing himself it is upon the point of starting ; if he gets an answer in the affirmative, he will say he has a small bill to pay, and ask where he can find the the conductor, as he wants change for a ten dollar bill ; he then says to you, will you be good enough to give me the change, as it will be a great accommodation to me, as the gentleman is in the depot waiting for me. If you should doubt

the genuineness of the bill, he will say he took it of the conductor or some other person that is perfectly good. If he should want a ten changed, and you should say you only had seven or eight dollars, he will say he can get along with that, and say, please let me have that and take the bill and keep it until the conductor comes round again, and I will have him change it and return you the change. When the conductor comes round, the gentleman with your money is in some other place ; very frequently when you take out your pocket-book to make change, he will get you confused and you will make a mistake, and he will probably get thirty or forty dollars for ten ; and frequently, when they come across a man who they find has plenty of money, and not used to counting his money, they will sometimes palm four or five bills besides getting their change. This palming is done in the following way : Take a bill and rollit up in a very small space and work it in the palm of their hand, and from there slip it into their sleeve.

The men who generally play these games are shrewd and sharp men. It requires a man of very good address, as they have to approach men, and sometimes find smart men to deal with; a man of about fifty or sixty years of age, is the most suitable person, and a man of gray hair, as he is above suspicion. The money used by these men is bills of some broken or worthless bank, such as the Tiverton Bank of Rhode Island, and the Bank of Massilon, Massilon, Ohio, and any bank where the bills look well; they prefer bills with the figures stamped on in red, as it gives the bills a good appearance. I was traveling from Albany to New York, by the Hudson River Railroad. I had just taken my seat in the cars, and an old gentleman had seated himself just ahead of me, when a very genteel looking man stepped up to him and asked him if the seat was all taken. The old gentleman told him it was not, and gave him half of the seat, when he entered into

conversation with him ; I saw the old man pull out his pocket-book and appear to be making change, when the man got up and walked out of the car. A gentleman in the seat ahead of him, asked him if he knew that man. He said he had seen him once before, and he had not made much out of him ; that he had seen him some days' before, and he had tried the same game on him, and as he had just left home, he thought he might see him again, and was prepared for him ; this man was the sheriff of Onondaga county, and the money he gave the sharper was two counterfeit five dollar bills, which he had taken from a prisoner, and received a ten dollar bill worth ten cents on the dollar. The sharper had found his match.

The Bogus Check Game.

This is played in a different way from the Broker's Game, but is of the same stamp, and requires two men to play it. If it is played for any amount, the sharper finds his victim, and engages him in conversation, and finds out where he is going ; sharper says he is bound for the same place, is a man of means, and is going to buy land or cattle. When he thinks he has the confidence of his victim he will give a sign to his partner, who will come up and appear to be looking for him, and when he spies him he is very glad to see him, and pulls out a large pocket or memorandum-book and commences

looking over his papers ; he soon finds the right one, which is his bill of goods he has purchased of sharper No. 1 ; No. 2 takes the bill and looks over it, pronounces it all right, and says he has not the money with him, but has a check for five hundred or a thousand dollars ; No. 1 says, you had better take the check and give me the balance in money. If the bill of goods should amount to two hundred dollars, and the check should be for five hundred, he, of course would want three hundred dollars back ; No. 2 would say he had no such amount of money with him, but would be very glad to get the check, as it was better to him than money, for he wanted to send it East, when No. 1 will turn to the victim and ask him to be good enough to cash it for him, and he will allow him ten dollars for his trouble. If he should say he did not have as much money with him, he will ask how much he has ; and if he should say he only had one or two hundred dollars with him,

he would ask him to lend him that, and he could keep the check as security, until they arrived at their destination, when he would go to the bank with him and get it cashed, and pay him for his trouble.

This game was played very successfully in New York, in the years of 1855-'56, also in Cleveland, Ohio, and to a great extent in Chicago, as any person that has read the papers may know; but there are hundreds of people swindled who never make their loss known, who had rather suffer the loss than have the public know they could be so easily duped. I knew a man in Cincinnati, who lived in Kentucky, that was swindled by one of these sharpers on the Jacob Struder, the mail-boat that runs between Cincinnati and Louisville. He was beat out of five hundred dollars in the following manner:—The victim was talking with a man on the levee, and had just left him, when the sharper stepped

up to the man he had been talking with, and asked the victim's name; he told him who he was, and that he lived in Lexington, Kentucky. The sharper excused himself, and said he must have been mistaken in the man—left, and went aboard of the boat. When the boat was almost ready to start, he went to his partner and told him he had not the amount of money with him, which was three hundred dollars, but that he had a check for five hundred dollars on the Bank in Lexington, and number two had no money to pay the difference; he turned to the victim, and asked him if he thought he would have time to run up to the bank and get it cashed. The victim told him he thought not, as the boat would soon leave, and said if it would accommodate him, he would cash his check. Number one said it would be a great accommodation. He counted him out five hundred dollars in current funds and the

sharpers left. A gentleman who knew the sharpers and saw the whole transaction, stepped up to the victim and told him he was swindled. He said it was nobody's business but his own, and took no further notice of it.

The Five Aces.

This game is generally played in bar-rooms and on steamboats, and is considered a very desperate game ; a man that is beat at this game knows, in an instant, that he has been swindled. This game was invented, it is said, by the celebrated Burt Mackay, while confined in the jail at Cincinnati, and is played in the following way:—The sharper calls to the bar-keeper for a new pack of cards ; after taking out the four aces, he cuts the cards in two parts, and takes two aces and shows them to the victim, lays them on the top of the cut, and takes the other two and cut, and turns his back to the victim while doing so ; the capper, in a smiling way, takes one of the aces off and puts it in the victim's

bosom ; then the sharper turns round and takes the same two cards off, shows them to the victim, and says, you see those two aces, when there is but one ; he then takes the other, cut and puts them together, shuffles them, and offers to bet any amount of money the four aces will come out together ; the victim knows they cannot, as he has one in his bosom, and readily offers to bet—the capper always acting as stakeholder. When the bet is made and the money up, the sharper will run over the cards, and the four aces will come out all right, as he puts one in to correspond with the one the capper takes out ; he has the cards arranged with the bar-keeper previously, and they most generally get a share of the proceeds. It is a game well calculated to deceive, and I have seen thousands of dollars change hands upon it.

The Ring Game.

The Ring Game is played by two persons in the following way : The roper gets the victim, and ropes him off for a walk ; during the walk, the capper is ahead, and at a given signal from him, such as raising the hat with the left hand, he drops a pocket-book, and walks a short distance ahead until he sees his partner pick it up, when he immediately starts back and meets them, and pretends to be looking for something ; the roper asks if he has lost anything ; he says he has lost a pocket-book with two valuable gold rings he bought for presents to his sisters, and would like to find them ; the roper says he had just picked up a pocket-book, but it only had

one ring in it ; the capper says he is mistaken, and he is positive there are two rings in it, and offers to bet any amount on it. The roper turns to the victim and says we can make something out of this fellow, and previous to the capper coming up, after dropping the pocket-book, the roper opens the pocket-book, takes a ring out and hands it to the victim, and tells him to put it in his pocket, which he does ; when the bet is made and the money up, the roper always acting as stakeholder, the capper takes the ring of the victim which was previously taken out of the pocket-book, and then opens the book, and from a little secret place, made for the purpose, takes out another ring, a *fac simile* of the other, and then shows them both to the roper and victim ; says he has won the money, which the roper hands him, the victim wondering how the other ring came there.

In the summer of 1856, while stopping at Saratoga Springs, I was walking one morning quite early, on the

grounds back of the Congress Spring, when I espied, a short distance ahead of me, two well-known sharpers, having a victim in tow ; I concluded I would watch them and see what game they intended playing on him, when I saw the capper walking back looking for something ; and there appeared to be a peculiar look to the victim, as he did not appear to be of the right stamp for such men to work upon ; the capper came up and the roper asked him if he had lost anything ; he said he had lost a pocket-book with two valuable gold rings, but the pocket-book he did not care anything about ; the roper said he had found a pocket-book, but it had only one ring in it ; the capper said he would bet one hundred dollars there was two rings in it ; the roper turns to the victim and tells him there is a chance to make one hundred dollars ; the victim says I have a great notion to bet him a hundred ; the roper says it is a sure thing to win ; the victim then says he will bet, and pulls out

his pocket-book and counts out ten ten dollar bills on the Unadilla Bank, of Otsego county ; the capper put up five twenty dollar gold pieces. The capper took the pocket-book and found the other ring, when the victim turned round and said he had learned that game cheap, and walked away ; the sharpers turned and went to their hotel.

I saw them a short time after, and they asked me if I had seen that gentleman they had met in the morning ; I told them I had not, and asked them why ; they then asked me if I was good judge of money ; I told them I was ; they then asked me to look at the money ; when I told them every dollar was counterfeit.

Dropping the Pigeon. or Heeling.

This is a very old game ; but like all others they find some person every day who never saw it before, and learn it to their sorrow. It is played by two persons, in the following manner : They find their victim and rope him off for a walk ; one goes ahead, and at a sign from the other drops the pocket-book, or pigeon, and the victim and roper come along and pick it up ; the roper opens it and says to the victim, we have found a good pile, now, I can't stay in town, and you give me fifty or a hundred dollars and you can keep it, and when the owner advertises it, and offers a reward which will be a large one for such an amount of money, you can get the re-

ward ; if the victim gives the amount out readily, the roper generally tries him for another ten or twenty ; the victim gives the money out readily to get rid of the roper, as he thinks he can have the money all to himself, and never thinks of returning it, even should there be a reward offered. The money used in filling the pocket-books is generally some broken or worthless bank notes or counterfeit.

Watch Stuffing.

This is a very old dodge which most everybody has heard of, but few know how it is played. I will here state where these watches are made, and what they are made of. Some ten or fifteen years since, the watches that were sold, were mostly German silver cases, with common quartier movements, and were mostly made in Germany and Switzerland, and cost from two dollars and fifty cents up to six dollars, with hunting cases and the movements capped to imitate patent lever movements ; but as gold watches became more plenty and fashionable, they went out of date. The German silver cased watches were sold by watch stuffers at from ten to thirty dollars, about the same as a good silver watch with lever move-

ments ; afterwards, when gold watches became so fashionable, they made the cases of brass and copper, sometimes very highly finished and fire gilded. These brass watches are made in the same places and by the same firms as the German silver cased watches ; the difference in the cost is but little more, except where they are plated with gold ; some are got up in good style, costing as high as fifteen dollars, and it takes a good judge to tell the difference, excepting in the movements, which are sometimes quartier and some cylinder escapement, made to read on the inside cap patent lever. The houses importing these watches are mostly located in Maiden Lane, New York City ; and there is no inconsiderable trade carried on in this line, and I don't think I would be far out of the way if should say there was two hundred thousand dollars worth imported every year into the City of New York alone, as that place supplies the United States.

This game is played in the following manner : There is one who is termed the seller, and the other the capper ; the seller carries the watches. The principal places of playing this game is at railroad depots and steamboat landings, on the departure of the cars and boats. The seller finds his victim and asks him when the boat is going out and where he is going ; the seller is bound for the same place, but he thinks he will have to wait for another boat, as he has met with bad luck ; the victim asks him in what manner ; he tells him he has lost his pocket-book with all his money, and has his mother and sisters with him, and cannot go any farther ; he then shows the victim a splendid watch, which he says was left him by his deceased father, and will have to sell it to get to his destination ; he then shows it to the victim, who sometimes will buy it without the capper interfering, but if he does not, the seller raises his hat twice, and the capper comes up. The capper then asks

the seller if he is the young man who lost the money ; he says he is ; the capper says I understood you had a valuable watch to sell ; he says he has and produces it ; the capper professes to be a judge, and says it is a very fine watch, tells the seller he is in business in a certain street, and if he can wait a few days, until his brother comes home, who has all the money with him, he will buy the watch ; the seller wishes to dispose of it immediately, as he has no money to stop in town so long. At a given sign from the capper, the seller will go off a short distance, while the capper asks the victim if he knows that man ; he says he does not ; and the capper says it is too bad for him to be without money, and away from home with his sister and mother with him. The victim asks him if he thinks the watch a good one. He says he is a good judge of watches and jewelry, and then gives a sign, and the seller comes up again, and asks the capper if he thinks he could take it. He says he

could not at present, and turns to the victim and tells him he ought to buy it, as it is a bargain, and he will be doing the young man a great favor to buy it from him, as it will enable him and his mother to reach their journey's end. If he should buy readily, and have plenty of money after he pays for it, he will then pull out another watch, which he says belongs to his mother; he does not like to part with it, but as he has bought his father's he might as well have his mother's; besides, he might not have money enough to take him through. The capper takes him aside, and tells him to buy it, that he is getting a great bargain, and he might as well have them both. If he should hesitate, he will tell him to offer him one dollar less than he gave for the other one, which he will most generally do; if he buys the second one, and after he pays for it, the seller will pull out a brass chain, and say as he has bought his watch he should have the gold chain to wear with it, and will

offer it at a great sacrifice, as he has sold the watch he has no use for the chain, and will, probably, get some ten or fifteen dollars more; the chain costing from twenty-five to seventy-five cents. But few men can be beat to such an extent.

Watch stuffing at the present day is done in a more scientific way, for the reason that people are better posted in relation to this game, but still there are plenty of persons who never saw it, and a great many that have heard of it, who are easily duped. The way in which it is done is this:—The capper finds the victim, and if it should be on a steamboat he ropes him to some part of the boat, where there are no passengers, and gets in conversation with him, and finds out where he is going, and says he is going there himself. If the victim should be a stranger in the place, the capper will say he is doing business there. The victim will then ask what business? He will say he is a jeweler

and watch-maker. If they are traveling west, he will say he has been to New York buying a stock of goods or jewelry, and is on his return. When he thinks he has his confidence, he will ask him if he heard of that young man that lost his money. The victim says he has not, and inquires all about it. The capper says he was talking with a young man which the clerk of the boat had pointed out to him, who had just returned from California, and had lost some two hundred dollars, and offered his watch for sale, which cost him, in California, one hundred and forty dollars, and he offered it to him for seventy-five dollars. The victim says why don't you buy it? The capper says that he would have bought it, if he had had money enough by him—that he has a draft, but cannot get it cashed until he gets home. Sometimes the victim will say, where is the fellow? If you say it is a good watch I will buy it, but I am no judge, and will buy it on your recommendation. The

capper says he does not know where the young man is, but presumes he went up into the city to sell it, as he said something to that effect, when he saw him last. The capper then raises his hat, when the seller makes his appearance, and says to the capper, are you not the man that was looking at my watch a short time ago? He replies that he is, and asks him if he has sold it? The capper then says, let me examine it again, I wish to show it to my friend, meaning the victim. He takes the watch, and pulls out of his pocket a watch-maker's eye-glass, and examines it, which makes the victim think that he really is a watch-maker. If he should be a shrewd man, he will hand it back to the seller, after he has examined it, and at a given sign he will step aside, and will say to the victim, there is a bargain in that watch, and that he should buy it without further delay. Sometimes the victim says he does not want to buy, as he has no use for so costly a watch. The cap-

per then says he will take it and give him ten dollars for his bargain, when they arrive at their journey's end, as he can then obtain the money on his draft, or at any given place except the one they are in at present. If that should fail to make him buy, they have another way which most generally makes them buy, no matter how smart they may be; and that is done in this way: The capper says if you will give him seventy-five dollars and keep it until we get through, I will give you eighty-five dollars for it, and give you ten dollars now to bind the bargain. Sometimes he says if you have got sixty-five dollars, I will give you ten dollars to make up the balance, and you can keep the watch until we arrive at our destination, and I will pay you seventy-five dollars back, and you will make ten dollars on the operation; he can see nothing unfair about that, as he will have the watch for security, and he does not suppose that the capper would pay his money for it, if it was not worth it;

never, for a moment, suspecting that they are in collusion. In this manner they beat the smartest men, and I have known men that have bought watches at mock auction stores in New York, and had them stuffed on them in various ways, and buy another one upon the strength of this way of operating.

Another way of disposing of these watches is, for one person to seek out a victim, and ask him what time the boat is to leave, and what place he intends stopping at, and says he is going to stop at the same place; that he is short of money, and is glad that he has found some person who is going there; he then takes out a watch, which, he says, he has just been up to a jeweler's shop to sell, but they would not give over half of what it is worth; besides, he don't care much about selling it, as it was a present from his deceased father, and he would like to keep it, and as he, the victim, is going to the same place, if he would take it and loan him a few

dollars upon it, he will feel very grateful. If the victim declines, he will ask him to let him have fifteen dollars on the watch until they get at their journey's end, when he will pay him back twenty dollars, which will be five dollars for the use of it; and, then, to cap himself, he says, I am not selling you this watch—you are to give it back when I pay you twenty dollars. He gives him the money, and thinks he is safe.

Watches are also sold in the following way: Get a gold watch worth about eighty dollars and get a number of brass or composition watches, with backs and dials similar to the gold watch, and have them boxed up. This game is mostly played on pawnbrokers or any person lending money. The sharper comes in and represents himself a jeweler doing busing business in some Western city, is short of money, has a note to pay, and wants to borrow some money. He then shows the gold watch; if he hesitates, he tells him to take it to a watch maker

and have it priced at wholesale ; he finds it cost some fifty or sixty dollars in New York, and concludes he will be safe in lending him forty dollars apiece on them. The sharper says he would like to raise about five hundred dollars, and he will give him twelve watches as security, and pay him his per centage. The sharper shows him the balance of the watches ; the broker looks them over, and finds they all correspond with the one he took to the jewelers, and lets him have the money. Not one man in a hundred will think far enough ahead to see if the movements are all the same, and very few are well enough acquainted with watches to know the difference. This game has been played to a great extent all over the country, and many a smart broker has had his eye teeth cut at it. One man in particular, a Jew in St. Louis, who lent three thousand dollars, and took this kind of property as security.

I will give a short sketch of a case that occurred in

the year 1854, while returning from the State Fair in Indiana. While on the cars from Indianapolis to Dayton, Ohio, I made the acquaintance of a very green looking individual, and from his conversation, which lasted some two hours or more, he told me he was traveling in disguise, and was in search of a fugitive from the city of Rochester, where he was an officer. I very soon learned from his conversation that he was not of the smartest kind ; I told him I was from Tennessee, was engaged in the watch and jewelry business, and was on my way to New York city to buy my fall stock of watches and jewelry ; he said he was very glad he had made my acquaintance, as he was on his return to Rochester, and we would be in company for some time, as I was going by the New York Central Railroad. When we arrived at Dayton we had to change cars ; during the time I found my partner, told him I thought I had a sucker and how to work him. I then found my

Rochester friend, who had a seat reserved for me ; while we were going from Dayton to Springfield, I told him about my seeing a young man in Dayton, while we were changing cars, who had come up the night previous from Cincinnati, had lost his pocket-book, and wanted to sell a fine gold watch for eighty dollars, which he paid one hundred and twenty-five for in Chicago, and as he was short of funds he had to make a sacrifice ; he asked me if I was acquainted with him ; I told him I never saw him before ; he said I should be a judge of watches, as I worked at the business ; I told him I had been engaged at the business nearly ten years, and considered myself competent to be a good judge by this time, if ever. The conversation then dropped for about half an hour, when he asked me where the young man had gone who had the watch ; I told him I had not seen him since the cars had left Dayton. I now saw by his talk he was inclined to bite, and thought I would let him take his

own course. As the the cars were coming into Springfield he asked me how much I really thought the watch worth ; I told him the young man said it cost him one hundred and twenty-five dollars, but I did not think the watch really worth more than one hundred and fifteen dollars, although he might have paid one hundred and twenty-five dollars for the same ; he said, I suppose if a person should buy it for seventy-five dollars, he would be getting a good bargain ; I told him he would, as the wholesale price in New York was about one hundred dollars ; he said if he could see the young man again he might be tempted to buy it—but would not buy it on his own judgment, and asked my opinion of it. I told him when we arrived at Springfield we might see the young man, but I was not sure, as he did not tell me which way he was going ; when the train stopped, we stepped off, and I gave my partner the sign, when he came up and asked me if I was the man he

was showing his watch to in Dayton ; I said I was, and asked him if he had disposed of his watch ; he said he had not ; I told him my money was all in drafts, or I would buy it myself ; I then asked him which way he was going ; he said his folks lived in the northern part of Michigan, and he was going home as soon as he could dispose of his watch and raise the money, but could not go any further at present. My Rochester friend then spoke and asked him if he would let me examine the watch ; he said he would ; we then went behind the depot, as I told him it was a bad place to open the watch, as there were so many cinders flying from the locomotive, and if one should get in the movements it might break it. I then took my glass and commenced examining it ; he asked me if I thought he would be safe in giving him seventy-five dollars for it ; I told him he would, and forty dollars in the bargain ; he then told my partner he did not want the watch, but if it would

help him, he would give him seventy-five dollars for it ; my partner said it was making a great sacrifice, but as he was compelled to have the money he would let it go. The Rochester gentleman paid him seven ten dollar bills and five on the Monroe County Bank, of Rochester. I then told him we had better hurry and get aboard of the cars, as they might soon start. The train bound for Sandusky City was on the track opposite us, and I made an excuse to get a drink of water, and told him to keep my seat, as I would soon return ; he said he wanted a drink, too ; I told him I would go in the other car to get a drink, and he might keep my seat until I returned ; he then sat down. When I sat in the forward part of the car I saw the Sandusky train start, and immediately jumped aboard. I have never seen anything of the Rochester officer since—but rather think if he catches rogues by the time that watch keeps, they will get a long start of him, as we carried it some two weeks and it never run a minute during the whole time.

Three Card Monte on the Ohio River.

In the Spring of 1853, while traveling from Louisville, Ky., to Cincinnati, Ohio, on the steamboat Telegraph, I made the acquaintance of a Jew peddler, who was engaged in the business of peddling jewelry, and soon after the boat left, which was about noon, we had a game of Euchre, just to pass away time, and after we were done playing Euchre, my partner watched an opportunity when there were but few passengers in the saloon and stepped up to me and said, have you ever seen the New Zealand Puzzle? I told him I had not; he took from the pack of cards we had been playing

with, three cards, and crimped them, and commenced throwing them one over the other, and said that I could not name any particular card for a bottle of wine. I nodded to the Jew, and he said that was no trick. I asked him if he would join me in the bet for the wine; he said he would. My partner then threw the cards over again, and requested me to turn up the card; I asked the Jew which one he thought was the right one; he said he would take the middle one; I told him I thought he was mistaken, but turned up the middle one, which proved to be the right one. We had the bottle of wine; after drinking it, he threw the cards over again, and offered to bet any amount that we could not tell again, without we had seen the Puzzle before. I told him I had never seen it before, and the Jew said he never had. I then asked him how much he would bet; he said that he was not particular, as he had just drawn ten thousand dollars in the lottery at Havana,

and money was no object to him. I turned to the Jew and said, we can make a good thing out of that fellow, and asked him how much money he had; he said he had only about two hundred dollars with him, as he had just bought a stock of jewelry, and among the lot about two dozen gold hunting-case watches. I told him I only had about one hundred dollars with me, but had a draft on Cincinnati for thirteen hundred dollars, but could not get it cashed until I arrived there; he asked me if I thought the fellow's money was good; I told him that I had not seen it. We then went to the table, and asked him how much of a bet he would like to make; I laid both hands down on the table, and raised them twice, which meant two thousand dollars; he looked at my hands, and said he would bet from two thousand dollars upwards, and then took out of his pocket about six hundred dollars in twenty dollar gold pieces, and as soon as the Jew saw them, I made up my

mind he would be an easy victim, although they have the name of being shrewd; I think they cannot stand the sight of gold, especially in large quantities; he told my partner that he had not so much money, but had a lot of fine gold watches, which he would put up against his money. I spoke and said it was not a proper place to be conversing on such matters, as we would be likely to be arrested for gambling—that we had better go to our state-room, where we would be undisturbed; he thought it a good idea, and went to the office and got his jewelry box, and opened it and showed us his stock, and said if he could get a fair valuation for his watches, he would bet. My partner asked him how much he would bet; he said that he and his friend, meaning me, would bet him two thousand dollars, providing his money was good, which he had no doubt it was; my partner said if he disputed the money he might take it to the clerk of the boat and satisfy himself; he took several twenty dollar gold

pieces and examined them, and said he thought they were genuine, and my partner said he had only seven hundred dollars in gold, and the balance he would put up in Kentucky money, and if he doubted its being genuine, he could take it to the clerk of the boat; he accordingly took two twenty dollar bills, and showed them to the clerk, and asked his opinion of them; the clerk said they were good, and he came back satisfied. My partner asked him what he valued his watches at; he picked out fifteen of them, and said they were worth one hundred dollars apiece, and said he would put them up at that price, and he had two hundred dollars in money; I told him I would make out the balance, and took out my watch and chain, and told them that it cost me one hundred and fifty dollars, and I had one hundred and fifty dollars in money, which, with the Jew's watches and money, would make two thousand dollars. My partner said he would like to have an un-

derstanding before the bet was made ; he then took the cards and threw them over, and said if we guessed any particular card we took the money, and if not, the money and watches were his ; the Jew said that was the way he understood it, and we went to the saloon, and got a pack of cards, and my partner took the tray of clubs and the tray of diamonds, and the deuce of hearts, and said we might take the tray of clubs as the card, and after throwing them over several times, I told him I would bet him one bottle of wine before we commenced ; he said it was all right, and I turned up the tray of clubs ; he said he was beat, and started to order the wine, and when he closed the door, I took up the tray of clubs and made a small dot on the back of the card, and said to the Jew that we could easily fool him now ; he winked, and thought it a capital idea ; soon my partner returned with the wine, which we drank, the cards still laying where my partner left them.

The Jew then asked him if he was willing to bet the two thousand dollars; he said he was, and two thousand more if he chose; the Jew said two thousand was enough—he opened the box again, and took out watches, and everything being understood, I was appointed stake-holder. The watches and money being counted and placed in a handkerchief, I was to give it to the Jew if he turned up the tray of clubs; if not, my partner was to have the handkerchief and its contents. The cards were then thrown again; the Jew turned up the card with the dot on, and it proved to be the tray of diamonds. My partner immediately took the handkerchief from me and put it into his coat pocket; the Jew turned deathly pale—I shall never forget his looks, as he took the card and looked at it, but there was the dot; my partner then left the room. The Jew turned to me and said, how could he change the spot? I told him it was as much of a mystery to me as it was to him.

We were then about ten miles from Madison, Indiana, and I concluded that we had better leave the boat there, rather than proceed to Cincinnati, as we were sure to be arrested there. The Jew asked me if I was acquainted with that man; I told him I was not; he said we had better see him, and ask him to give back the watches; I told him I did not think he would, if we had won his money we would not give it back; he said he was a ruined man; I told him he should not have bet; he asked me to get him some brandy and water, which I did; I told him to lay down and he would soon feel better, and I would go and see what arrangement I could make in the matter; I found my partner, and told him we had better leave the boat at Madison; he said that it was his intention to do so; we were then nearing the landing, and as soon as the plank went ashore, we had our trunk taken off, and the boat was soon off again.

Before closing this, it may be interesting to some, to know how the spot on the card was changed from the tray of clubs to the tray of diamonds. When we first went aboard of the boat, an understanding was had with the bar-keeper; we gave him three packs of cards of one kind, small blue star backs, and when we called for cards, we were to have them, and no others, for which we paid him one dollar per pack. My partner had the other cards, corresponding with the first three, in his pocket, except the tray of clubs being dotted it was the tray of diamonds; when he went the last time to take the watches out of his box, my partner slipped the first three in his pocket, and took out the last three, which contained the tray of diamonds dotted, in the place of the tray of clubs. You see what chance you have of winning with a sharper; and it holds good with most kinds of gambling, as gamblers seldom risk their money, without the odds are in their favor, which is the case

nine times in ten The Jew I never heard of since, but suppose he had the officers, at Cincinnati, on the watch for us, but it was useless, as we took the cars and went to Indianapolis.

The Game of Euchre or Diamond Cut Diamond.

In the summer of 1852, while coming from Chicago to Buffalo, on the steamer Hendrik Hudson, I made the acquaintance of a young man who came aboard of the boat at Milwaukee, and from his appearance and manners, I took him to be a young man from the West going East to attend school. Shortly after leaving Milwaukee, he went below to the saloon and wished to find a party to play a game of euchre, merely to pass away time ; the bar-keeper asked me if I would join in and make up the game, as there was only one wanting ; I told him I was not much acquainted with cards ; the

young man said they were only going to play for the segars and some drinks, and it would not be a great deal if I lost. We then commenced the game, and the young man was an opposite partner ; I saw by his dealing and shuffling the cards, that he was a gambler. We played several games and it was about an even thing ; he then proposed to play for a dollar a corner, that is, each person put up a dollar, and the first two out take the money. The man at my right hand was an old lake captain, and had taken the steamboat, as his vessel had gone a few days ahead of him, and he expected to overtake it at Mackinaw. When the young man proposed playing for a dollar he was perfectly willing, and appeared to have plenty of money ; the other man who was my partner I knew but little of, but was satisfied he was no carder ; I told them rather than break up the game I would continue playing, and put up my money. The first game we lost ; the old captain, who had been drinking quite

freely, wanted to play for five dollars instead of one, remarking that he could never get rich at such a game as that ; I told them I was willing, and the game went on. After playing some some two hours or more, we agreed to wait until after supper ; as soon as the game was over, the young man threw the cards overboard, and then went out of the saloon. I asked the bar-keeper who the young man was ; he said he was not much acquainted with him, but told me he lived in Buffalo, and that he often went up the lake for the benefit of his health ; I was then satisfied he was a gambler. After tea we were in the saloon, and commenced the game again, at five dollars a corner. I thought my chance as good as his, and was determined to play as long as I saw it was a square game ; after playing an hour or more, I was thirty dollars ahead, when the young man got uneasy, and the old captain quit and went to bed. I then proposed playing three-handed, each man for

himself ; the other man objected, and said he thought he would go to bed. The young man then offered to play me single-handed for the same amount ; I told him I was willing, and he called for a new pack of cards. We commenced again, when I perceived he was playing an advantage on me, and commenced looking to see in what quarter ; I soon learned he was playing marked cards on me, but continued playing, as I thought it policy to do so. It was then near twelve o'clock, and I told him we had better wait till morning, as my head ached. Before quitting I palmed some ten or fifteen cards on him, put them in my pocket, and started for my state-room, where I examined the cards and saw how they were marked ; he had only the aces, kings, queens and jacks marked, but in such a way he could tell the suit as well. I then laid a trap for him ; the cards were plaid backs, and in the morning I went below, and found a young man, who, I told, I wished to tell a

secret ; after convincing myself he could be trusted, I told him to go to the bar-keeper and get a pack of cards, to be sure and get plaid backs, and if the bar-keeper should ask him who they were for, to tell him he wished to have a game in the steerage for some segars, and be sure to not let the bar-keeper or any other person see him coming into my state-room. He went and got the cards, which I saw were the same kind, with the exceptions of the marks ; I then took and laid his down, back up, and marked the new pack in the same place, but different ; for instance, I took the queen and put the mark he had on the ace, and on the king I put the mark of the queen, and then took the cards and handled them to make them appear as if they had been played with a short time, and told the young man to say nothing about this to any person ; he promised he would not ; I then left my room and went to the saloon, where the young man was awaiting me ; he asked me if I had seen the

old captain ; the bar-keeper then told us he had left during the night at some place we had stopped. The young man asked me if I would like to try a game ; I told him I was not particular, but would rather play in some other place, as the saloon was too public to play for money ; he asked me where we should go ; I told him we could play in my room, as there was a small stand in it, and I would go up and see if the berth was made, and if it was, I would come down and let him know. I then went out and found my young man, and told him to come to my room ; I don't mean the gambler, but the young man I previously sent for the cards, and told him to take the pack of cards I had marked, and when I gave him a sign, which would be the raising of my hat just before I sat down to dinner, I then wanted him to go out on the guard of the boat, go into my state-room, take up the cards which he would find laying there, and lay the ones I had just given him in the same place ; I

told him to do it as unobserved as he possibly could ; he said he would. I then went down and saw the young gambler, and told him everything was ready. He then called for a pack of cards, and we commenced playing at ten dollars a single game ; as I knew the cards as well as himself, he had very little advantage of me ; we played until the first bell rang, when we concluded to stop until after dinner. I was sixty dollars winner of him. We then had our dinner, when I gave the young man the sign. After dinner we commenced again, when I told the young man it was a slow game for such a small amount of money, at least, it would be considered so in my country ; he asked me what country I came from ; I told him I was from Texas, and that they never played any game there for less than a hundred dollars ; he said he was willing to play for any amount ; I then told him we might as well call it a hundred dollars, as one or the other would be winner to a good

amount, to which he agreed. I then beat him four straight games, and played until I won eight hundred dollars of him ; he said he had no more money with him, took the cards, and started down to the saloon ; I followed him, and saw him conversing with the bar-keeper.

I afterwards learned from a gentleman on the boat, that the young man traveled the lakes most of the time, and that his partner had won two thousand dollars a few days previous in Milwaukee, of a man from the northern part of Wisconsin, who was engaged in the lumber business very extensively ; that they had played marked cards on him, and he threatened to prosecute them.

They had to leave the city, but it seems he had left his partner, and, I suppose, went in with the bar-keeper ; but it was a losing operation for both of them. I saw

them afterwards looking over the cards. The young man that assisted me, I gave twenty dollars, told him to say nothing of the affair, and left the boat at Detroit.

The Five Aces and the Nigger Stealer.

In the Fall of 1851, I started from Chicago with my partner, for a Southern trip, expecting to return in the following Spring. We arrived in St. Louis, and remained a few days, until we found a boat going to New Orleans which suited us. While waiting, I saw a young man with whom I was acquainted; he showed me some California Lumps, the first I ever saw, of which I have already given a description in this work; he said they were an entirely new thing, and if I wanted some, he would let me have them at a small advance on what he paid for them in California. I took one dozen,

and my partner and myself started for the hotel; he asked what I intended doing with them; I told him they were as good as so much gold; I went and bought a Panama hat, and went down on the levee; the steamboat Grand Turk had just arrived from New Orleans, with a load of California passengers; they were coming ashore and taking boats for different places—some up the Upper Mississippi, and others up the Illinois and Missouri Rivers. I went aboard of a Missouri River Packet, that had quite a number of California passengers on board, and represented myself as a returned Californian, and being short of the coin, I had been up in the city to dispose of a specimen, but could not get the worth of it. One man asked me to let him look at it, which I did; he asked me how much I wanted for it; I told him it was worth about seven dollars; he said he would give five dollars for it, and I let him have it; I sold ten lumps on that boat for fifty dollars; they

would not weigh more than five or six dollars if they had been genuine, and after leaving the boat I sold two more on the levee for five dollars apiece, which made sixty dollars for the twelve lumps, which made me a clean profit of fifty-three dollars, as I paid seven dollars for the dozen. I told my partner we had better remain a few weeks, as we could not do any better, and I would get another lot; we concluded to remain another week, which we did, and made one hundred and eighty dollars. We bought another lot and took the steamboat Grand Turk for New Orleans, where we arrived after a passage of ten days; we then took the steamship Louisiana for Galveston, Texas. Among the passengers was a man about thirty-five years of age, who seemed very fond of playing cards, and wished to play the most of the time, and from his conversation he was a man who had never before been South; he took me by the arm, in a very familiar way, and said, I think I know you; I told him

if he did he had the advantage of me, as I did not know him; I asked him where he had known me; he asked me if I remembered riding in a stage from Niagara Falls to Lewiston; I then remembered him; he said he had lived in Canada, but was then from Illinois; he then asked me if I could keep a secret; I told him I thought I could; he then went on and related that he had lived the last six months in Illinois, and during the time had been engaged in counterfeiting and horse stealing, and during the time had made the acquaintance of a negro who had ran away from the State of Delaware, and tried for a long time to induce him to go South with him, but the negro suspected him, and finally he told him he was going to California, and told the negro he would take him out there, and he could work and pay him back, when they got there; the negro finally consented to go, and they were to take a steamboat to New Orleans, and from there take the steamship to

Chagres, and cross the Isthmus. When they arrived in New Orleans, he took the negro and sold him for four hundred and fifty dollars, and was now on his way to Texas, to try his fortune; he asked me what kind of country it was; I told him I was not much acquainted in Texas, but from what I had seen of it, I thought it a fine country; he asked me if I was alone; I told him I was, and he proposed we should travel in company; I told him I would see, as I had a little business to attend to in Galveston, I might possibly arrange so as to travel with him. I then left him and went to my state-room; I told my partner what had transpired, and thought we might make something out of him, as he had some five or six hundred dollars; we concluded to try him with the five aces, but did not like to beat him on the boat, as we might have to return the money, and as we were within a few hours' sail of Galveston, we thought we would wait and beat him as the boat was nearing the dock; I

left my partner and found my man again, and engaged him in conversation until the boat was near the city, when I asked him if he would go to my state-room and take a drink, as I had some better liquor than what they kept on the boat; he said he would; we went, and just before we reached the door, I beckoned my partner, who came up and asked me where the saloon was, that he had been looking for it, and wished something to drink, as he had been sea-sick ever since the ship had left New Orleans; I told him I had some good liquor, and asked him if he would join us in a glass; he said he would. We then went in and shut the door; my partner spoke, and said, I guess you play cards here, and he took a pack of cards from one of the berths; I told him no, that I had found them in the berth, and supposed they were left there by some other passengers; he said, I will show you a trick; we took a drink, and he shuffled the cards, and took out the four aces and laid the ace of

clubs and ace of hearts on the top of half the pack, and took the other half in his hand, and turning around said we could not so place the cards but what the four aces would come out together; I took the ace of hearts and put it into the man's bosom, and winked at him; my partner then turned around and took the remaining half of the pack and put them all together—he asked us to shuffle them, which I did; he said do you suppose I can make them all come out together; I told him I did not know; he said he would bet a thousand dollars that they would all come out together; the man spoke and said, I will bet you five hundred dollars that they will not come out together; I asked him to wait and let me bet; he said no, I wish to bet; he then counted out five hundred dollars on the Louisiana State Bank, and I was to be stake-holder; my partner then put up his money, and handed it to me; I asked him how the bet was to be decided; the man then said he was to deal the cards, and if the four aces were there, he, my

partner, was to have the money, but if not, he was to have it, at the same time putting his hand in his bosom, to see that the card was still there; my partner commenced running the cards off, and came to the first one, the ace of clubs, and then the ace of spades, and the ace of diamonds, and then, holding up the next card said, if that is the ace of hearts, the money is mine; I said that was the agreement; he then threw down the card and said, then give me the money; which I did, and he immediately left the state-room. The man looked very much surprised, and taking the other ace out of his bosom, asked me how he had done it; I said I did not know, unless he changed the spots; he said that was impossible; I said it was fortunate for me that I did not bet, as I should have lost every dollar I had; he said he had about a hundred dollars left; I told him he might go down in Mexico and run over another nigger, and he would get even; he said he thought he would. The boat then landed, and we went ashore; the man

went up into the city; the boat, after taking in coal, proceeded on her way, and we kept on until she reached Port Lavacca, where we left her. The kidnapper I never saw since.

Three Card Monte on Lake Ontario and the Canada Counterfeiter.

In the summer of 1855, I took a trip from New York to Buffalo, and from there we went to Lewiston and took the steamboat New York to Ogdensburgh, and on the boat my partner made the acquaintance of a young man some twenty-eight years of age, and he seemed to be rather retired, and shunned the passengers. After leaving the mouth of the Niagara River, the bar-keeper wished to start a game of euchre, and my partner asked the young man if he would take a hand ; after a great deal of urging he consented, and we played some five or six games. After the games were over, I introduced three card monte, and offered to bet five hundred

dollars that no man could tell the right card. I saw by the young man's actions he wished to bet, and as there were a considerable number of passengers in the saloon, I put the cards up until no one was left in the saloon except my partner, the young man, barkeeper and myself; I then took out my cards, commenced throwing them again, and made the same proposition, when the young man asked me to throw them over again, which I did; he said he would bet me five hundred dollars that he could tell the winning card; I told him it was a bet, and put up my money, when my partner closed the door, and the young man stepped one side and counted out fifty ten dollar bills on the Commercial Bank of Canada, Kingston, all new bills. I asked him if the money was all good, as I was no judge of Canada money; he said he had taken it out of the bank, in Hamilton, Canada, that forenoon, and it must be good; the bar-keeper took one of the bills, looked at it,

and pronounced it all right. My partner was to be stakeholder. I then threw the cards over again, and told him I was ready ; that if he turned up the tray of spades, as that was the winning card, he took the money ; if not, I took it. He said that was right, and turned up a card, which proved to be the deuce of hearts. My partner then handed me the money, when I called for a bottle of wine, which we drank ; I then handed the bar-keeper one of the ten dollar bills, and he gave me my change.

The young man did not seem much chagrined at his loss, so I went to my state-room and examined the money, and being a very good judge of money, I soon came to the conclusion that it was counterfeit ; I took one of the bills to the clerk, and asked his opinion of it ; he said he thought it was counterfeit. I then went to the young man and asked him to give me other money for it ; he asked me what was the matter with it ;

I told him he should know as well as me ; he then said he had no other money ; I told him that would not do, when he took me aside and said it was good enough to bet on such game ; I told him I did not view it in that light, and he must make it good ; he said he had no other money with him, but would make it good when we arrived in Ogdensburgh, on condition that I never said a word about it ; I told him it was none of my business ; he then told me to come up town with him, and we went up near the St. Lawrence Hotel. He then went into a store, and came out with a check on the Judsons Bank, for five hundred dollars, and offered it to me ; I told him that would not do, as he must give me the money. He then went with me to the bank and gave me the money. I then gave him back his money, minus ten dollars, which I gave him in gold ; he then took me aside and said I had made five hundred

dollars very easy, but he thought I was all right ; I told him I was. He then told me it was a new issue, and I was the first man that had detected a dollar, as it was only issued some two days before, and told me to say nothing of it ; and as he acted honorable with me, I did the same with him. He told me where and by whom it was made, and if I chose I could give them some trouble. The reader may think it strange that I did not notify the police, but if they gave as much information as I have, and get paid as well for it, they will not blame me, as I have tried several times in my life to help the ends of justice, and came very near being made an accomplice, so I came to the conclusion to let the officers do their own business, and attend to my own, as I have found by years of experience that it is the cheapest and easiest way of getting along.

Some years since I was employed by the authorities

of Cincinnati to ferret out the celebrated Martha Washington case ; after getting my instructions how to work, was politely told one evening in the National Theatre, that if I went to Memphis after a certain man, I would have the top of my head blown off ; as it was, I took no more interest in the affair. Another instance I will mention :—While traveling from Philadelphia to New York, I saw a number of pickpockets on the train, who soon got at work on a very old man ; I told my partner it was a shame for them to rob such an old man. When the train stopped, I asked the old man if he had lost anything, when he felt, and said he had lost his pocket-book and one hundred and thirty dollars ; I told him I had seen the men that had robbed him ; he asked me where they were ; I told him they had just stepped off the train, and if he kept his seat I would look for them, and left the cars, but could see nothing

of them ; I then returned and took my seat, and when the conductor came round for tickets, the old man spoke to the conductor about the robbery, and pointed over to me. The conductor passed through the cars, took his tickets, and returned with one of the brakemen, and said he wished to see me ; he took me into the baggage car, and said he should have to search me ; I said he should not ; he insisted ; I told him I would like to have him explain himself ; he said you are suspected of robbing that old man of his wallet ; I told him I was the first one that told him of his loss ; he said I must be searched ; I said the first man that attempted to search me that was not legally authorized to do so, I would shoot, at the same time drawing my revolver ; the conductor then said he would telegraph on and have me arrested at the next station ; I told him if it would afford him any satisfaction, I would remain in the baggage car until we arrived in Jersey City, and would give

myself up to an officer, which I did; when the cars arrived at Jersey City, I soon found some friends that knew me, and satisfied the conductor that I was not a pickpocket.

The Strap Game on Lake Champlain. Betting for Oxen.

After leaving Ogdensburgh, we went to Rouse's Point, and from there to Burlington, Vt., where we took the steamboat Canada to Whitehall. On the trip down, I became acquainted with a Vermonter who had a yoke of cattle on board, which he was taking to Troy, N. Y., for an uncle of his. My partner introduced the Strap Game, and offered to bet that no man could catch it; the young man seemed very anxious to bet, and proposed betting his cattle against two hundred dollars; my partner said it was a great deal more than they were worth, and offered to bet one hundred and fifty dollars

against the cattle; the young man finally concluded he would bet once, and my partner had a bill of sale of the cattle made and put up against the money, which I held, as stake-holder; everything being arranged, the strap was coiled, and the young man pricked, but did not catch it, when I handed the stakes to my partner. The young man laughed, and asked my partner what he would do with the cattle; he said he thought he could dispose of them to some butcher; the young man asked how much he thought he could get for them; he said he would take one hundred and twenty-five dollars for them; the young man said he would give seventy-five for them; my partner said he could not have them for any such money. After the boat had arrived, my partner commenced landing the cattle; the young man came forward and said he would give one hundred dollars for them; my partner told him he might have them; he then paid him one hundred dollars and took

the cattle, remarking that he had saved fifty dollars, as he should have bet the money if he had not accepted of the cattle; he appeared well satisfied, and started for Troy with his cattle, but we saw the next day, by the papers, that he was met on the road, just before he reached Troy, by a man who represented himself to be a butcher from Troy, and bought his cattle, and paid him two hundred dollars in counterfeit money, but never learned whether he recovered his cattle.

A Description of the Strap Game, and how it is Played.

The Strap Game is played to a great extent, principally on race tracks and at State fairs. To a person who never saw it, it seems easily beaten, as it is a very simple game—it is played in the following way:—The strap being about thirty inches long, both sides being

made alike, and about three-fourths of an inch wide ; the strap is then doubled, one end being left a little longer than the other, and folded up, so that there are three loops in the middle, and the game lays in putting a pencil or stick in one of the loops, so that when both ends of the strap are pulled, one of the loops will catch. If the game is played on the square, one of the loops will catch. When the sharper gets a victim, he lets him catch it once or twice, in order to make him think he can catch it, but when he comes to bet, it is quite a different thing ; when he folds the strap he takes another turn on one side, which throws it out of the place which caught before.

The Ball and Safe Game in Cleveland.

In the summer of 1853, while stopping in Cleveland, one day I was sitting in a chair smoking a cigar, outside the Weddle House, when I was accosted by a man who said he lived near Akron, and had just come in town, and wished to know where he could find a steamboat going to Milwaukee. I told him to be seated and wait a minute, as the clerk of the steamboat Empire had just gone up stairs, and I would call him. I stepped up to my room where my partners were enjoying a nap, woke them and gave them the points : one was to represent the clerk of the boat, and the other was to

turn or play the ball. I started down stairs ahead of them, and when one came I introduced him as the clerk of the boat, and told him my friend had just come in from Akron, and wished to take a boat for Milwaukee ; my partner told him he was the clerk of the Empire, would take him to the boat, and give him a good room, and would carry him cheaper than any other boat ; the man seemed well satisfied, and the roper said he had to call in the other part of the town and get a package of money a gentleman wished to send to Chicago, and if he would accompany him, he would go from there to the boat ; the man readily agreed, and they started off towards the lake, went near the hospital, and stopped to take a view of the lake ; they started again, but had not gone far before the roper picked up a little ivory ball of a very singular appearance, and commenced looking at it, when he accidentally pushed the center through, and took a gold dollar from the inside, which

he gave to the victim, and told him to put it in his pocket, which he did. Presently, the capper came along, who seemed to be in great distress at the loss of something. As he came up, the roper asked him if he had lost anything ; he said he had lost a model of a patent safe, which he was taking to Washington to get patented, and if he could not find it he was a ruined man. When the roper produced it, he seemed very glad, and said it was the model of a safe that no man could open. It had a gold dollar inside which no man could take out, and offered to bet five thousand dollars on it. The roper turned to the victim saying there was a chance to make something, and turned to the capper and asked him how much money he would bet ; he said any amount, and turned and asked the victim how much he had ; he said he had just sold his farm, and had about twenty-four hundred dollars ; the capper said he had six hundred, which he would let him have to make out

the three thousand dollars, and bet him that amount. The victim said he belonged to the Methodist Church, and never did such a thing ; the roper then said he had a draft on the bank for three thousand dollars, which belonged to the boat, and if he would lend him his money, he would give him it as security, and pay him the money when they got to the boat, and if he won he would give him a hundred dollars for the use of it ; he said he never bet in his life, but if he would take the responsibility, give him the draft for security, and pay him a hundred dollars for the use of it, he would let him take his money, but he was to say nothing of it afterwards.

They finally agreed and made the bet ; the capper putting up some eighteen hundred dollars in City Trust money that exploded some twenty years since ; the roper was to be stakeholder. When the money was up and everything ready, the capper takes and turns the

ball over and pushes the slide through, and on the reverse side, takes out another gold dollar, when he immediately took the money from the roper, and started down the hill, which is a very uneven sand hill ; the victim says to the roper, I am swindled ; the roper tried to pacify him, but he would listen to nothing, and called for the police, but he was in the wrong locality. The roper says he will make the man stop and give up the money, commenced calling, but he did not stop ; he pulled out a pistol, and said he would shoot if he did not stop ; he then turned to the victim and asked him if he would shoot ; he said he could do as he pleased, but he wanted his money ; the roper cocked his pistol and fired, when the capper immediately threw up his hands and fell, as though he was shot. The victim said I had killed him ; I said I could not help it, and that we had better leave or we would be arrested for murder. The victim turned very pale, and says for God's sake

say nothing about this to anybody ; it was with difficulty he could walk. He promised to take the first boat that left for Milwaukee and let his money go ; the roper accompanied him as far as the dock on River Street, and as luck would have it, the steamboat Minnesota was fired up and ready to start for Milwaukee, when he immediately went aboard ; and if any person could have seen him, they would have seen a very badly duped and frightened member of the Methodist Church, who would not bet his money himself, but allow others to bet for him, and was willing to share the proceeds.

After the boat was clear of the dock and out on the lake, four individuals could have been seen in the Marble Saloon, under the Franklin House, seated around a table, drinking, and dividing the deacon's money—one a celebrated police officer, and the other, a man that had been lately shot. The police officer had no dividend in the money, and knew nothing of the affair, but just

happened to be passing, and was asked to take a smile ; he was all right if called upon, and readily accepted a twenty dollar bill to get a new coat. We made, on that occasion, some eight hundred dollars a-piece ; we never heard of the man afterwards, and I don't think he knows to the contrary, if he is alive, but what that man was shot *bona fide*. If this should meet his eye, he will learn that the man was not mortally wounded, but still lives, and has served four years in the Columbus State Prison since, which may be some satisfaction to him, as he was a native of the State of Ohio.

The Game of French Monte in Chicago.

Another case which occurred in Chicago in the summer of 1855. In traveling from Toledo to Chicago, I got acquainted with a young man from the State of Vermont, who had left home with some nine hundred dollars, whose brother (living in Illinois) had died some days previous, and had left a widow, with three little children; he had a mortgage on his place for six hundred dollars, and was on his way to foreclose it and sell the place. After telling me his story, I thought it would be no harm to take his money, and told my partner the circumstance; I told him that if he would agree

to give his share of the proceeds, we would try and beat him, and find the locality of the widow and give her the money. I found that she lived in the vicinity of Elgin, north of Chicago some forty miles, and the amount due on the place, some four hundred and fifty dollars; that the place was valued at two thousand five hundred dollars. I told my partner we would beat him and leave the cars at Laporte, and cross over and go to Chicago by the Michigan Central Road. I had my partner come in, about two o'clock in the morning, and take a seat ahead of us; after leaving White Pigeon, we introduced the game of French Monte, and my partner commenced throwing the cards; I asked him what game he called that; he said it was a game he had learned in California; I asked him to throw them over again, that my friend could see how it was done; he threw them over again, and offered to bet a thousand dollars that no person could tell where the red was; I told my Vermont

friend that there was a chance for us to make money, and that I had four hundred dollars, and if he would make up the balance—that we could win a thousand dollars very easy; he thought we could, and counted out the money, six hundred dollars, my four hundred making the thousand, and I was to be stake-holder; he threw the cards over again, and I asked my friend if he could tell the card; he said he could, and lifted it up to see if he was sure; it proved to be the right one, when my partner threw them over again; he told me he thought he knew which the card was. I then said we had better make the bet now; he asked my partner if he would bet him one thousand dollars that he could not tell which was the red card; he replied that he would, and the money was handed to me; I told my friend to be sure and choose the right card, as every dollar I had in the world was at stake, and it depended on his judgment to win or lose; he lifted the card, but it was not

the right one ; he turned to me and said he was ruined, as that was his last dollar ; I told him that was my situation too ; my partner took the money, and as the cars were approaching Laporte, he went into the baggage car and had our trunk taken off ; we remained at Laporte until ten o'clock next morning, when we went to Michigan City and took the cars for Chicago, where we arrived some three hours after the victim, who, immediately after arriving in Chicago, went to the police head-quarters, and made known his loss, when they telegraphed back to Laporte, supposing that we would take the next train East, but instead of that we were in Chicago, watching every movement that was made. The officers had the fellow running around some three days, trying to find out whether he had more money, and make him come down for their trouble. I could give the names of the men, but as one of them is dead, I will omit them ; it will not help the matter

any. The fellow, after staying in town three or four days, took the cars for Elgin. We mentioned the circumstance to a friend at the Tremont House, and told him if he would take the money, go to Elgin, see the widow, pay off the mortgage on the place, and do it in such a way that the young man, if he should be there, would be unable to discover where the money came from, we would let him take the matter in hand; he promised all that we asked, took quite an interest in the matter, and started for Elgin; after a little inquiry, he found the widow, and had an interview with her, she said the place was to be sold to pay off a mortgage of six hundred dollars; my friend asked her if she had the money to pay it; she said she had not a dollar, and had three young children to support; my friend said he could lend her the amount, but she declined taking it, saying that she should never be able to pay it back, and the place might as well be sold first as last, and it

would be off her mind; my friend told her he would pay the money and make her a present of it; she thought it very strange, but he assured her that it was right, and some day would give her an explanation of the matter; she finally consented, and went with him to a lawyer and had it fixed. When the young man found it out, he was much surprised, as he intended buying the place at a bargain, but was mistaken. My friend returned to Chicago, and up to the present day, the widow, or her brother-in-law, do not know who paid the mortgage off, but if this should meet his eye, he may be enlightened on the subject; also the police officer, who made the young man pawn his trunk and clothes for the sum of twenty dollars, to pay him for looking after us, which money he used in traveling to St. Louis for the purpose of looking up a young man who had committed a forgery in Milwaukie, and stating, on his return, that he could find nothing of us; he

did not go after us at all. If this should meet his eye, he may learn something to his advantage, and that there is some other person that is cognizant of his misdeeds, besides himself. This man, at the present day, is considered wealthy and an upright man—he may be, in the eyes of some, but he made his money in striking down thieves and sharpers, in one way and another, but I think, from appearances, he does not enjoy his wealth, as he is in law, with some person, most of the time. If it was not for his family, I would mention his name.

The Strap Game in Memphis.

Another case which I will mention is the largest transaction I was ever engaged in. It took place in 1851 ; the Californians were returning in great numbers, by way of New Orleans. I arrived there the ninth day of December, and stayed until the fifteenth day of April ; the day before I left, the steamship Falcon arrived with a load of Californians. I thought it would be a good opportunity, as I was going up the river, to make a good trick ; the boat I intended taking passage on, which was the Bay State, happened to have a good load of them aboard. I went aboard and engaged a state-room ; I soon made the acquaintance of a young man from the

interior of Missouri ; he went to California in 1849, had made some thirty thousand dollars, as he said, he had sent fifteen thousand home, and had about fifteen thousand with him. I thought he could be beat for a large amount, and commenced sounding him to see what games he was posted on ; I found he had seen very few of the many games which are played on men of his stamp. I laid plans to beat him for a large amount, but had not money enough with me to make a large show ; went to the clerk of the boat, and found he had dealings with the State Bank of Missouri. When we arrived at St. Louis, I got a bank check of him, filled it out for the sum of ten thousand dollars, and told him during our conversation, that I had just sold a large tract of land in Texas, and was just returning with the proceeds to Missouri to invest it in mules to drive overland to California, and asked his opinion ; he said they would pay very well, as mules were scarce and com-

manded a very high price. After I had my plans laid, I saw my partner, and we concluded to play the strap game on him, it being the easiest. When the boat landed in Memphis, we took a stroll up town, as the boat was to stop some two hours. We had our trunk put on board the wharf boat; the steamboat Glendy Burke, bound for New Orleans, then hove in sight. I thought we had better beat him, and take the next boat down; I then went down on the levee, and raised for my partner, who went ahead, took his seat on a bale of cotton, and commenced coiling the strap. I said to the young man, let us see what that young man is doing; we went up, and I asked my partner what he was doing; he said nothing much, only a little puzzle he had bought in Mexico, and would bet the cigars that no man could catch it; I told him to do it up again, which he did; I then told my friend to try and catch it, which he did. I said that was no game, as any

person that had common sense could catch it ; he said he would bet five thousand dollars we could not catch it again ; I told him I had no such amount of money with me, but if I had I would bet him. He asked me if my friend had the money ; I told him I did not know anything of his affairs, as we only got acquainted coming up in the boat ; he said if we thought we could catch it, we could make five thousand dollars. My friend, the Californian, turned to him and said that five thousand dollars was no bet, but if he would double it and make it ten thousand, he would bet him ; my partner told him it was immaterial to him whether it was five or ten thousand dollars, as he had just drew forty thousand dollars in the lottery ; my partner commenced counting his money, which only amounted to some eight hundred dollars, and handed it to me ; the Californian asked me if I had counted it ; I told him I had ; he asked me to count his money, and it was very

easily counted, as he had it all changed into one hundred and five hundred dollar bills on the Louisiana State Bank, before leaving New Orleans ; I counted it and told him it was all right, and the bet was made ; I was to be stakeholder. My partner coiled the strap and laid it on his knee, when the Californian took his pencil and put it in the hole, but it did not catch, when my partner immediately took the money and started down the levee. The Californian turned to me and asked me how it was done, as that was the place that caught before. I said we will try him again, as you have money left ; he said he had ; I told him we would bet him fifteen thousand dollars this time ; he said he had no such money ; I told him I had a check on the State Bank of Missouri for ten thousand dollars, and he could make out the other five thousand ; he said he would do it ; I told him to sit there and I would go and fetch the fellow back, and left him sitting there.

We had just time to get our trunk on the steamboat Glendy Burke, when she started for New Orleans, where we soon arrived, and got our money changed into gold. I never heard of the fellow afterwards.

Confidence Women.

Confidence women are generally found on steamboats or railroads, and work in the following manner:— If traveling alone, they most generally pick up some old gentleman, and if on the railroad, they get a seat as near as they conveniently can, and find out where he is going, and what business he is on, and tell him a story most suitable to his case; generally they are some poor ill-treated wife, only married some two or three months, —have just left their husband, and are in search of a brother or sister, who live a long ways off, and they are short of means; if the old gentleman should offer to accompany her, and offers her money, she, of course, will

refuse at first, but if he should persist in her taking it, she will, but only as a present, and hint to the victim that it is hard work to travel night and day, and that they should stop over at some point, which, if the victim is not over green, he will propose to her to stop over night and get a night's rest, and go on the next day, which she will accede to immediately, and the victim will go to a hotel and call for a room, and register some fictitious name, and the lady as his wife; they are shown to their room, and after a short conversation, and at a given signal, there is a loud rapping at the door, when the victim is much frightened; the woman will say that she thinks it is her husband, and if it is, he will surely shoot both, when she ventures to open the door, and in rushes the man, who is very indignant, and threatens to shoot both parties, and finally cools down, and agrees to take a thousand dollars or five hundred, as the case may be; he pretends that he knows the old

gentleman, and calls him by name, he learning it from the woman, by her dropping a little card which contained the information, before entering the room; the husband, as he pretends to be, knows the victim, where he lives, and all about his family, and threatens to have him prosecuted and exposed to the public, and rather than have that done, he is willing to pay a thousand or five hundred dollars, because if he is exposed it will ruin him forever, and he will willingly pay the money, and ask no questions.

A case occurred some two years since. A man from the interior of the State of New York, who had been to New York city to dispose of a lot of cattle, and having disposed of them, was piped around by a sharper, who made his acquaintance, and found that he was going to return home the next day, and intended taking the day-boat up the river to Albany; he laid his plans accordingly. He got a woman, and had her and his partner

take passage on the same boat; after the boat started, it was some time before the victim would engage in conversation with her, but when the bell rang for dinner, she asked him where the dining hall was, that she was traveling alone, and being a stranger, she would be glad to find company; as she was traveling the same route that he was, he would be happy to accompany her, if she was willing; they took dinner, and after dinner they promenaded around; the victim found her a very agreeable and fine lady—was much pleased with her, and was much interested in her after hearing her story, which was of the old kind; she had been married but a short time, her husband had driven her away, and taken all her clothes; she was fleeing from him, and going to try and live by herself, and she was glad that she had found a friend; he felt exceedingly happy that he had found her, and was proud to think that he could help her, and told her all his troubles—that he

was a married man, and had a large farm in Madison county—that his wife was an exceedingly bad woman, and he could not live with her, as they were continually quarreling. He proposed stopping over night in Albany, and taking the cars the next day, as it would be too fatiguing for her to travel all night; she, of course, could not object, coming, as it did, from a friend; when the boat arrived in Albany, the victim went to the hotel and engaged a room, and registered the woman as his wife; after tea she proposed a walk, and after looking at the Capitol and the city in general, they went back to the hotel; her object in taking the walk was to let her partner know how things stood, which she did by dropping him a little strip of paper, and he following them until they returned to the hotel; after sitting and conversing awhile, the victim became very sleepy, so much so, that the woman put her hand inside of his undershirt and took all his money, which amounted, in all, to

about twenty-seven hundred dollars, besides a draft for thirteen hundred and odd dollars, when she and her partner left, taking the train for the West, stopping at Schenectady and taking the cars for Saratoga Springs. The victim did not wake up until the next morning, after coming to himself, and finding that he was robbed, concluded to say nothing about the matter, he being a man of family and standing at home, and having registered the woman as his wife. The man who acted in concert with this woman, is now serving fifteen years in Sing Sing. The woman is dead.

Another case I will mention which occurred in Cleveland some years since. The victim, a young man from Connecticut, who had quite a sum of money, and intended investing the same in land in the West. He was picked up on the steamboat Northern Indiana, since burned on her trip from Buffalo to Cleveland; he came

off the cars at Buffalo, from Albany, and was induced by a very genteel appearing man to take the boat, as it was much pleasanter, and as the railroads were in very bad repair, and the bridges very dangerous, he finally concluded to take the boat. He then went on board and engaged a room, and while walking through the cabin, a lady stepped forward and asked him some question concerning the route. When the boat landed in Cleveland next morning, this couple could have been seen in company together taking a hack, and finally brought up at one of the large Hotels on Superior Street.

The next day this young man was at the police office, the hardest looking young man you could find in a long walk—his eyes were bloodshot, and money all gone, besides a valuable gold watch and chain, which had been presented to him before leaving home.

He told his story in the following way : He got acquainted with a young lady coming up in the boat ; she proposed traveling on in company with him, as he was going to the State of Iowa, as she was also going there to teach school. After they arrived in Cleveland, they stopped at a hotel ; in the afternoon he proposed taking a ride, and after driving some distance out of town, they stopped at a hotel or tavern, called for some lemonade, which they both drank, and then started on. In a short time he began to feel very dizzy and could not tell which way he was driving ; he remembers stopping at a small piece of woods, and being brought to town next morning both penniless and sick.

This young man was robbed in the following way :— A man made his acquaintance on the cars from Rochester to Buffalo, found out his business, how much money he had, and tried to beat it out of him by gambling, but

he would not gamble, nor let his money be used for gambling ; and his having a large sum made him a good subject for some game. The game they chose was a desperate one ; the sharpers, or thieves as they were, adopted this method of robbing him ; and, as they have all manner of things for their business, brought him in contact with a woman whose husband had been sent to Columbus State Prison some years previous, for being concerned in the famous Martha Washington affair, and one of the men that robbed him was also concerned in the same affair, and after her husband had been sent to prison, she traveled with him.

After they arrived in Cleveland she induced him to take a ride, which he did ; when they called for lemonade, she drugged him by slipping it in his drink, while he was looking at the horse. When at home this young man was considered moral and virtuous, and if not met

by this woman, might have been to the present, as he was tried many times, before the boat left Buffalo, to bet on three card monte, but would not ; so you can see the difference—he could be beat by a woman, but not by a man. The amount he lost was seventeen hundred dollars, besides his gold watch and chain. He made a complaint at the police office, but nothing was ever heard of the robbers or money ; but if this young man had went to Cincinnati, he might have seen the lady and the fine young man with a large black mustache who was so polite to him, and offered him part of a seat coming from Rochester to Buffalo, riding out every afternoon for a few weeks. The money did not last long, as they were at their old trade a few weeks after in Detroit, with what success I could not say, but suppose they did well, as that game paid well for a short time, but had its day, like everything else. I think some of the mysterious disappearances could be traced

to this source, especially one that took place some two years since, of a citizen of Buffalo ; he started for Cleveland or Cincinnati, and was never heard of after, although there was some five hundred dollars offered as a reward ; he was last seen in Cleveland.

The Thimble Game.

The Thimble Game. Who has not heard of the Game of Thimbles, or Thimble Riggers, as they are sometimes called. For the edification of those who have been so fortunate as not to have seen it, I will briefly describe it. This game is played, as all other short games, with a capper, which is indispensibly necessary in all games. The gambler produces three small wooden thimbles, or made to represent thimbles, as they are not as hollow as a woman's thimble, and a small ball of paper, and sometimes it is made of sponge, and placing the balls on his knee, or some smooth surface,

commences operations by rolling the little ball with his third finger under each of the thimbles, which are in a row, lifting first one and then the other, as the ball approaches it with his thumb and forefinger, playing it along from one to the other; when all is ready, he suffers the ball to stop, half-disclosing, half-concealing its resting place, he then lifts his hand and the capper sees the little joker, and shows it to some victim, and proposes a bet as to which thimble the ball is under; the gambler then changes it again, and the bet is made, the capper always acting as stakeholder; the victim is told to raise the thimble, as it generally gives better satisfaction, and if the capper and victim bet together, which is frequently the case, and they lose, the capper can then raise the right thimble, and tell the victim he raised the wrong thimble, and made him loose his money, and sometimes they can get him to bet again,

but not very often, as they generally intend to make the first bet tell, and it is not often a man will bet twice, as some of the crowd will take him aside and tell him to beware.

Mock Auctions, or Peter Funks.

This class of swindlers is composed of gamblers, broken down merchants and thieves of all kinds. The tricks of these scoundrels are such, in many cases, as are calculated to deceive the smartest people who are on the lookout for great bargains. In order to conduct, successfully, one of these establishments, twenty or thirty of these worthies go in together, and by assuming different disguises, such as dress and actions, are enabled to personate all kinds of people, and it is very necessary to have a friend in the police, more especially the one that patrols the beat which takes in the shop, as it is frequently the case that after a victim has been swind-

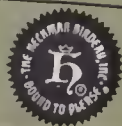
led, he tells his story to the first officer whom he meets ; the officer will agree to get his money back for a certain consideration, and after things are arranged, he goes to the shop and tells the victim to sit down while he talks with the proprietor, to see what can be done ; he goes back in the rear, and they arrange things to suit themselves ; sometimes the victim gets half of the money back, and the balance is divided between the officer and the Funks ; the officer tells the victim that he is doing well at that, if he should prosecute he will have to give bail for his appearance against the parties, and then he will have to attend court and hire a lawyer, which will be more trouble than it is all worth, and sometimes they will agree to pay back half the money, and give the victim broken bank notes ; if he doubts the genuineness of them, he is referred to some broker in the crowd, who pronounces them perfectly good, and the officer will do the same ; the victim will never suspect the

officer, and when he leaves the location he seldom ever returns, and when he does he finds a different set of men, and another man on the beat, who, of course, knows nothing of the transaction.

But these sharpers, with all their shrewdness, sometimes meet their equals. A case occurred, not long since, in which a number of Californians, who had just arrived by steamship, figured. Two of them were sauntering down Broadway, and were enticed into one of these swindling concerns. A genuine gold watch had just been put up, worth eighty dollars, and the Californians commenced bidding; the watch was run up to some sixty dollars, and finally knocked down at sixty-five dollars. When the Californian pulled out his purse to pay for it, the auctioneer requested him to pass it up, while he put it in a box and made out a bill of sale; the Californian said it was no matter, as he thought it was all right, and would put it in his pocket; the crowd

then gathered around him and tried to get the watch away from him ; he drew his revolver and called on his friend, who did the same thing, and threatened to shoot the first man that came near him. He then counted out sixty-five dollars in gold, and walked out. The Funks were out some fifteen dollars by that operation. The reason of his wanting him to pass the watch up and get a bill of sale, was to ring another watch on him that looked just like the one he bid on, but he was too smart for the Funks. He made about fifteen or twenty dollars by the operation, and saw the elephant besides.





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